FBIS DAILY REPORT

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RESPONSE TO UN CRITICIZES UK, REQUESTS TALKS

PY100029 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2205 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 9 Aug (NA) -- According to a note that the Argentine Government handed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar this afternoon, in response to the call he made for Buenos Aires and London to resume negotiations for the peaceful settlement of the Malvinas Islands dispute, Argentina is willing to resume direct talks with London under the terms of the UN resolution, "which in no way admits the possibility of establishing preconditions that may pose an obstacle or delay the resumption of negotiations."

The note reads as follows:

"I have the honor of addressing Your Excellency in response to your note dated 20 July 1983 on the mission of good offices that was asked from you by UN Security Council Resolution 505 (1982) and by UN General Assembly Resolution 37/9 on the Malvinas Islands issue.

"In this regard, I want to remind Your Excellency of the reiterated expressions by both the president of the Argentine nation and the minister of foreign affairs and worship, and of the many official statements that Argentina has made at international forums declaring that it is willing to comply immediately with UN Security Council Resolution 505 (1982) and UN General Assembly Resolution 37/9. I also want to remind Your Excellency that Argentina has been pleased to accept your mission of good offices, which will seek the resumption of negotiations with Great Britain over the sovereignty of the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands.

"This decision of the Argentine Government was conveyed to Your Excellency through a note dated 23 December 1982, a few days after the United Nations General Assembly approved Resolution 37/9, and also through the notes dated 3, 12 and 24 January, 30 March, 28 June, and 16 July 1983, all of which were circulated as official UN documents.

"I must also remark that Latin America, the OAS, and the Nonaligned Movement have expressly requested compliance with Resolution 37/9.

"This confirms that the above resolution reflects the universal opinion, which my country supports, that the perpetuation of colonial situations is incompatible with the UN ideal of peace, and it also reaffirms the principles of nonuse of or threat to use force, and of peaceful settlement of international disputes.

"However, thus far the British Government has turned a deaf ear to the international community's appeal launched at the General Assembly.

"Even more, the letter that Argentina addressed to Your Excellency on 16 July 1983 reporting the militarization of the territories in dispute and the construction of a permanent strategic military base in the Malvinas Islands clearly shows that the present British Government is continuing its policy of confrontation, which is aggravating the tense and insecure situation for my country and the Latin American region.

"After almost a year has gone by since the approval of Resolution 3969, the constant refusal of the United Kingdom to resume negotiations to solve the dispute, and the failure to take into account the mission entrusted to Your Excellency openly breaks the stipulations of the Charter and the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions which refer to the case.

"Mr Secretary General, my government cannot fail to fully share Your Excellency's opinion that the sooner the negotiation process can be resumed, the better will be the prospects for a just and lasting solution to the question of the Malvinas Islands.

"The Republic of Argentina will carry out negotiations in keeping with what is established in Resolution 37/9, which in no way admits the possibility of establishing preconditions that may pose an obstacle or delay the resumption of negotiations.

"In this regard, my government is confident that the continued efforts that Your Excellency has made within the framework of your good offices mission will contribute to achieve this objective.

"At the same time, my government is convinced that the resumption of negotiations between my country and the United Kingdom constitutes the most suitable alternative to effectively protect the interests of the islanders.

"As is stated in the letter dated 29 June, the Republic of Argentina is willing to grant special attention and to justly respect the traditions and lifestyle of the islanders through the proper safeguards established in the Argentine legal system and the official statutes that may be negotiated.

"Finally, I want to convey the wishes of the Argentine people, who are convinced of the legitimacy of their rights over those territories, that this reply to Your Excellency's note should be interpreted as an appeal for the resumption of negotiations between my country and the United Kingdom, so as to find as soon as possible a solution that would definitively eliminate the causes contributing to maintaining a source of continual tension in the South Atlantic region, in opposition to the essential UN principles and purposes of justice and peace.

"Allow me to suggest to you that this reply of the Argentine Government be attached to the report which Your Excellency will present to the 38th term of General Assembly sessions."

BIGNONE RECEIVES CREDENTIALS OF SOVIET ENVOY

PY092021 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Exactly at noon today, the president of the republic went to Government Palace where he received the credentials of Soviet Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary Oleg Konstantinovich Kvasov.

ARMY COMMAND ISSUES ORDER ON COURT APPEARANCES

PY100103 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2041 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Aug (DYN) -- The Army commander-in-chief tonight acknowledged that a radiogram has been sent to all units, ordering officers who are summoned to appear in court in connection with cases involving the fight against subversion to report the fact to their superiors prior to reporting to court. It was indicated that this radiogram ratifies a previous order, but that "it does not imply that court summonses are to be disregarded."

UNIDENTIFIED GROUP FIRES ON FORMOSA BARRACKS

PY091759 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0215 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, Formosa, 8 Aug (NA) [dateline as received] -- tonight it was officially reported that, 8 years after repelling an attack by terrorist groups, soldiers of the 29th Forest Rangers Regiment engaged in a shootout with unidentified persons who "attempted to gain access" to the barracks.

The commander of the local military garrison, Colonel Antonio Ricciardi, reported tonight on the event that took place this morning. There was "no one wounded, nor were there any arrests."

Ricciardi summoned the directors of Formosa's mass media to read out a brief communique. The following is the text:

"Today, at approximately 0500, a patrol detected two to four unauthorized persons trying to gain access to the premises of the 29th Forest Rangers Regiment. When they were told to halt, they opened fire and the troops fired back. Backup troops immediately started to operate in the area, carrying out a thorough dragnet that continued into the morning, looking for evidence which may lead to the identification of the aggressors and to find out the reason for the attack."

STATISTICS BUREAU REPORTS CONTINUING INFLATION

PY092058 Paris AFP in Spanish 0157 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Aug (AFP) -- On Monday night, the National Statistics and Census Institute (INDEC) reported that, during the past 12 months, inflation in Argentina soared to 325 percent. INDEC has also reported that, during the month of July, inflation rose by 12.5 percent, while in June it amounted to 15.8 percent. For the period between 1 January and 31 July, consumer prices rose by 128.5 percent, INDEC reported.

Over the past 12 months, wholesale prices rose by 313 percent; between January and August 1983, they rose by 116 percent.

The third indicator monitored by the government, prices in the construction sector, showed a 428-percent increase in July, compared to the same period last year.

As for salaries, the statistics for the month of May, prior to the inflationary jump of June-July, showed a real increase in the workers' income of about 12 percent.

LABOR FEDERATION SUBMITS DEMANDS TO PRESIDENT

PY100302 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] submitted an emergency socioeconomic plan to President Hernan Siles Zuazo at 1630 today. In the plan, the COB proposes that larger private enterprises be put under worker control and that COB representatives hold a majority within the government.

The plan was handed over by COB leaders Oscar Sangines and (Tomas Cabrera) at Government House. The plan also foresees the implementation of worker majority comanagement in state-run companies, in keeping with their needs, characteristics, and importance. It also proposes a delay in the repayment of the debt owed to the international private banking community and the rejection of the impositions set by the IMF.

Private Sector Criticized

PY100309 Paris AFP in Spanish 1648 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Commenting on the negative attitude that the influential Confederation of Private Businessmen has adopted regarding the labor comanagement demand that the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) has submitted to the government headed by President Siles Zuazo, COB Executive Secretary Juan Lechin Oquendo today said that the private sector is terrified about labor comanagement because through it people will find out that huge sums of money are involved in tax evasion.

Bolivian workers, who accepted to cogovern [as received] with the present chief of state, also demanded the implementation of labor comanagement in all state enterprises. The labor comanagement system has already been implemented at the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (COMIBOL), an enterprise believed to be the backbone of the Bolivian economy.

According to Lechin, it is not honest businessmen who fear that workers may inspect their account books, but those who commit fraud against the government, who evade taxes, or who have two "sets of accounts."

Fernando Illanes, the president of the Confederation of Private Businessmen (CEPB), had stated that labor comanagement in large private enterprises will cause great confusion that will cause enterprises to go bankrupt.

The CEPB's position was supported today by U.S. Ambassador Edwin Corr, who noted that the private sector is one of the best guarantees of the Bolivian democratic system.

Siles Studying Demands

PY100339 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 0316 GMT 10 Aug 83

[From the "Final de Jornada" program]

[Excerpt] Within hours, the president must make an important and definitive decision: to reject or accept the Bolivian Labor Federation's [COB] emergency socioeconomic plan. The COB's participation in the present government depends on the rejection or approval of the emergency socioeconomic plan. While the president and his advisers are analyzing the COB proposal, national political sectors have already expressed their views about a possible cogovernment with the COB.

ITAMARATY ISSUES COMPLAINTS ON U.S. FISHING

PY100346 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Aug 83

[Text] Brasilia (O GLOBO) -- Donald Hauger, spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, reported yesterday that his government has already conveyed to fishing companies the warnings that the Brazilian Government made regarding the adoption of stricter measures to prevent illegal fishing by foreign ships in Brazilian waters.

Itamaraty sources reported yesterday that despite the warnings, 98 percent of the problems that the Brazilian Navy has had with foreign ships fishing in Brazilian waters have been caused by ships belonging to U.S. companies.

According to the sources, those companies send groups of eight ships to Brazilian waters in order to make the work of the navy more difficult, because its corvettes cannot pursue all the pirate ships at the same time.

LABOR PARTY WITHDRAWS FROM COALITION WITH PDS

PY092325 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2305 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] The PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] has just broken off its agreement with the PDS [Social Democratic Party]. The PTB president announced that as of today, the PTB is no longer part of the majority bloc in Congress.

JULY INFLATION RATE REACHES RECORD HIGH

PY100134 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 5 Aug 83 p 15

[Excerpts] The 13.3 percent July inflation rate marks the alltime high since the inflation index was begun in 1944. For the purpose of making monetary corrections, the index is 8.5 percent (after expunging the components for oil byproducts, wheat, and products affected by climatic conditions). However, the government set at 9 percent the monetary correction for August.

With the 13.3 percent July inflation rate, the 12-month rate is already 142.6 percent. The January-July accumulated inflation is 89.6 percent. For the 1983 inflation rate not to exceed 160 percent, which Central Bank President Carlos Langoni considers the minimum that can realistically be promised to the IMF, the monthly rate from August through December cannot surpass 6.5 percent.

BRIEFS

CONSTRUCTION OF ANTARCTIC STATION -- Navy Minister Maximiano da Fonseca has presided over the ceremony in which the Secretariat of the International Commission for Sea Resources and the company (SAESP) [expansion unknown] Train Equipment Ltd signed a contract for the construction of the Comandante (Ferraz) Antarctic summer station. Under the terms of the contract, the construction of the station must be concluded on 5 December. The station will be installed close to the U.S. Palmer Station. [Summary] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 2 Aug 83 PY]

GABRIEL VALDES CALLS FOR RESIGNATION OF PINOCHET

PY092006 Paris AFP in Spanish 2259 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 6 Aug (AFP) -- Today Gabriel Valdes, leader of the Chilean opposition sector, publicly called for the resignation of the president, General Augusto Pinochet, as a means of bringing a change in the state's political leadership for the fatherland's welfare.

During a dinner party attended by some 800 persons of various political opposition leanings, Valdes stated that it is neither improper nor arrogant to request, fully exercising the right to petition, the president of the nation to resign.

Valdes, president of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party and foreign minister during Eduardo Frei's administration (1964-70), supported his petition by stating that a person (Pinochet) who places himself above the problems and painful conflicts of the past few months can hardly expect the support of the citizenry.

Valdes added that we also deem it essential to establish a provisional transition government representative of a national consensus, to which the newly established Democratic Alliance already commits its support.

The political leader stated that the reestablishment of the constitutional system, with full respect for human rights, democracy, and a state of law, order, and peace could be attained in a period of 18 months.

The opposition Democratic Alliance is formed by Radicals, Socialists, the Democratic Republican right, Social Democracy, and Christian Democracy.

Valdes pointed out that we think it is possible that the people, through a plebiscite, may approve a constitutional reform that will provide for a constitutional assembly to exercise the duties of the government junta.

Valdes states that we have witnessed with sorrow and anguish the serious moral, institutional, economic, and social crisis which Chile is enduring. We believe that the great majority do not consider the current government capable of finding a real solution to the difficult problems we are currently enduring.

The leader of the opposition also pointed out that the country's capability to survive the deadly trap of a massive recession -- which would also entail the destruction of the business sector -- is strongly dependent on a deep-rooted political change, which is the only way of increasing the country's capacity to negotiate.

The opposition considers the document which Gabriel Valdes read to be the basis for a political alternative to the government headed by General Augusto Pinochet. Among its proposals, it states the need to reorganize the political society, establishing as a necessary condition that Chileans be allowed to exercise their citizenship.

The text also points out that the country's democracy will become stronger as the political parties gain strength, respect, and the real capacity to mediate for the social sectors. These are starting points for the present, not for 1989.

It was recalled in Santiago that General Augusto Pinochet's current presidential term should end in that year according to the Constitution approved in 1980, which also bans Marxism and any doctrine that threatens national security.

The draft political alternative presented by Christian Democratic leader Gabriel Valdes ends by stating that we also agree that democracy is a regime which merits international respect and guarantees our prestige and security as a country. In a democratic regime, our armed and security forces should be restricted to exercising their specific duties and to adequatedly participating in achieving the great objectives of a modern and democratic state.

Political Sectors' Reactions

PY100238 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1425 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 8 Aug (EFE) -- With mixed feelings of caution and support, political sectors today reacted to a proposal submitted by the Democratic Alliance [ADCH], an umbrella group of democratic parties opposed to the military regime of President Augusto Pinochet.

Adolfo Ballas, former deputy for the Rightist National Party, noted that the proposal is "very positive because if calls for understanding among democratic parties so as to find a way out of the present crisis."

The proposal of the opposition mainly seeks General Pinochet's resignation, the formation of a temporary transitional government, and the writing of a new constitution allowing for the election of a constituent assembly.

Javier Leturia, leader of the "unionist" sector that is supportive of the military government, said that the opposition's proposal "is not a concrete solution because it calls for a violent change, which not all the nation is willing to support, and also because it does not contemplate the armed forces' participation in the process."

Leturia observed, however, that it seems "legitimate for the opposition to express its concerns and to submit suggestions for improvement."

The president of the Constitutional Study Group and former justice minister under the Allende government, Manuel Sanhueza, made this assessment: "The proposal would make a prompt return to democracy possible."

Rodolfo Seguel, president of the National Workers Command [CNT] and leader of the 23,000 member Copper Workers Confederation, found the proposal to be "very positive because it is a clear pronouncement in favor of democracy, in line with the spirit which moved the labor leaders to initiate the national days of protest."

According to Seguel, the emergence of the ADCH and its political proposal is doubly positive because now "the political sectors have taken over the leadership."

PINOCHET TO RESHUFFLE CABINET 10 AUGUST

PY100227 Paris AFP in Spanish 1912 GMT 9 Aug 83

[By Humberto Zumaran]

[Text] Santiago, 9 Aug (AFP) -- It was learned in Santiago today that the Chilean president, General Augusto Pinochet, is about to implement the 33d cabinet reshuffle in his 10-year-old administration, along with a plan leading to a political opening under the supervision of Sergio Onofre Jarpa, the current ambassador to Argentina, who will be the new interior minister. Government sources reported that the cabinet reshuffle will be announced before the fourth day of national protest organized by the opposition for 11 August.

According to reliable sources, the cabinet crisis began after the third day of peaceful protest, when General Pinochet and influential echelons confirmed a loss of support in major social and political sectors of the nation.

The government first sought to begin a new stage in the military regime by means of a political plan that was to be launched on 11 September, 10 years after the overthrow of the late Socialist President Salvador Allende.

However, sources close to the president said that the serious events that took place during the three days of protest staged by political, labor, and social sectors beginning on 11 May prompted an earlier cabinet reshuffle and the implementation of a plan leading to a political opening.

Although it is assured that the cabinet reshuffle will be only partial, it is thought that the designation of Sergio Onofre Jarpa as interior minister replacing the current minister, Air Force General Enrique Montero, will be a key factor for the government's future political actions.

Jarpa, who will reportedly become the cabinet's new political head, belongs to the nationalist rightist sector. He has been the president of the National Party since 1968. As the leader of that dissolved rightist party, Jarpa waged a hard struggle against Eduardo Frei's Christian Democratic administration (1964-70) and against the government of President Salvador Allende until the latter was overthrown in 1973.

Jarpa, who has actively engaged in Chilean-Argentine negotiations over the century-old Beagle conflict, was recalled to Santiago 3 weeks ago and, according to press reports, installed himself at the offices located close to the presidency.

Since his arrival, Jarpa has been working with military and civilian advisers on a political plan requested by Gen Pinochet.

According to specialized sources, the new government plan, to which President Pinochet has lent his full support, centers around the implementation of a limited political opening that will be led by well-known former leaders of the Conservative National Party, who will thus play a spearhead role in the political opening.

The next stage would include a rapprochement with moderate sectors of the powerful Christian Democratic, Social Democratic and Centrist Radical Parties. Relations with the outlawed leftist parties have been ruled out.

Thus, it was said a political bloc could be formed in a battle against the clock; this bloc could allow President Augusto Pinochet to rule in an environment of greater tranquillity, peace, and stability. This way, Gen Pinochet would remain in power during the transition period until 1989, as scheduled by the Constitution approved in the 1980 referendum.

The popular newspaper LA TERCERA reported today that the broad front that the government would now sponsor will reportedly create a congress within 12 months. This congress will be made up of pro-government and opposition figures.

Last week, President Pinochet announced the study of the constitutional laws on the activities of political parties, which are in recess or which have been outlawed, on the national congress, and on the electoral system that will be implemented in the future.

However, despite the symptoms of a government-sponsored political opening that might result in the designation of a more flexible and politically experienced interior minister, the opposition that is now headed by the Democratic Alliance (ADCH) believes that the government will be unable to solve the growing number of difficulties that Chile has encountered.

It was recalled in Santiago that the ADCH, recently created by the powerful Christian Democratic Party, the Radicals and the Social Democratic Party, which are centrist parties, and by the Republican Democratic Right and the Socialist Party, openly asked for the resignation of President Augusto Pinochet on Saturday, submitting the first political alternative to the military regime.

The Democratic Alliance, led by former Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes, also believes that the creation of a provisional transitional government is an essential precondition, and that this government must be born out of a national consensus. The ADCH has pledged its support for the transitional government so that the constitutional system may be restored in 18 months.

Meanwhile, the parties that made up the late President Salvador Allende's Popular Unity (1970-73), among them the Communist and Socialist Parties, are playing a cautious and intelligent secondary role with the tactical objective of avoiding the hardest part of the struggle in the confrontation with the government.

Thus, the Chilean political panorama is becoming increasingly complex and delicate, because a short or medium-term solution will be difficult to implement inasmuch as a vast majority that opposes the military regime will actively engage in the fourth day of peaceful protest on 11 August.

Meeting for Changes Confirmed

PY100008 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Relay from Government House by (Graciela Contreras)]

[Excerpts] General Fernando Matthei has confirmed that cabinet changes will be announced within a few hours. The junta member made this statement at the end of a meeting with the president during which the members of the military junta were officially informed about these cabinet changes.

The members of the military junta arrived at Government House at 1700 and immediately held a meeting with the president, who had several meetings with secretaries and close advisers throughout the morning.

At the end of the junta's meeting, General Mendoza and General Cesar Benavides declined to comment on the issues that were discussed.

It must be noted that unusual activity has been noticed since early morning at Government House, as the president held several meetings throughout the day. The president, and with the finance, economy, education, housing, transportation, foreign relations, and agriculture ministers. Moreover, the interior minister presided over a meeting of presidential advisers that was also attended by finance secretaries, the government secretary general, and the National Information Center, CNI, chief.

For several reasons the following people were also at Government House today; the government under secretary general; the president of the Council of State; Miguel Schweitzer; the economy and justice ministers; and lastly the members of the military junta, who held a meeting with the president.

REACTION TO STUDY OF NEW POLITICAL ACTIVITY

PY100159 Paris AFP in Spanish 1858 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 5 Aug (AFP) -- The announcement that the Chilean military regime will study the terms of the proposal submitted by political parties was received with skepticism today by the opposition, which noted that the announcement was mere demagoguery.

Commenting on Pinochet's statement, Social Democratic lawyer Mario Papi has noted that the government has merely resorted to a new form of demagoguery to create false hopes through the intelligent use of the mass media. Juan Hamilton, Christian Democratic Party representative, said that it is impossible to comment on government announcements because after 10 years we have grown accustomed to them.

Opposition leader Jorge Lavandero, who is spokesman for the National Development Project (PRODEN), which has national support, warned that the country will not wait until 1989 to witness how the government makes superficial changes so that everything can continue to be the same.

The Multiparty Group, which, despite the ban on political party activity, groups members of the Rightist National Party, the Christian Democracy, the Social Democracy, and the Socialist Party, described the government announcement as a maneuver to postpone the return of democracy.

ONE WOUNDED BY CARABINEROS IN 7 AUG PROTEST

PY092000 Paris AFP in Spanish 1519 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 9 Aug (AFP) -- Today judicial sources disclosed that an inhabitant of a neighborhood on the outskirts of Santiago was shot in the head when a former member of the Carabineros forces was dispersing a street demonstration against President Augusto Pinochet's government. Another two demonstrators were arrested and handed over to a military prosecutor.

The sources pointed out that the incident took place on Sunday evening in Maipu neighborhood at the western end of Santiago.

It was recalled that eight persons who took part in the three days of protest against General Pinochet's regime between May and July were killed by bullets in circumstances which have still not been clarified.

FOUR CP MEMBERS DETAINED BY CNI; CHARGES UNKNOWN

PY092019 Paris AFP in Spanish 1517 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Arica, Chile, 8 Aug (AFP) -- Four members of the outlawed Communist Party of Chile have been detained in Arica, northern Chile, during raids by members of the National Intelligence Center, CNI. This charge was made today by relatives of the detainees.

Lawyers have submitted injunctions to the courts, but thus far, 4 days after they were detained, the charges against the detainees and the place they are being held remain unknown, it was reported. It has been recalled that according to the special laws enforced by Augusto Pinochet's military government, the CNI is entitled to detain any person without warrant for up to 20 days in places other than jails prior to bringing them to court.

TERRORIST COMMANDOS ATTACK, BURN WORKSHOP

PY091725 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Excerpts] A terrorist commando attacked and burned a workshop destroying six buses. The terrorist operation took place at the shop called Recauchajes Navarrete [Navarrete Tire Repair Shop] located on 4123 Independencia Avenue, Conchali District in Santiago. In a synchronized action, the terrorists surrounded the workshop and threw five molotov cocktails from five different points. When the vehicles began burning the terrorists squirted flammable liquids throughout the workshop. The flames, which spread rapidly completely destroyed three buses and seriously damaged three others.

When police learned of the attack, they began an investigation to locate those responsible.

MIR TERRORISTS CHARGED; INDICTMENTS HANDED DOWN

PY091647 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Three terrorists, members of the outlawed MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] have been formally charged with violating the state security law.

The indictments were handed down by Judge Marta (Osca), who was specially appointed to try the case against terrorists (Raul Enrique Castillo), (Jose Uncaso Rocha), and (Blanca Rosa Carrasco Almade).

The three terrorists carried out their wrongdoings under several political aliases. The indictments include unauthorized possession of guns and possession of subversive pamphlets and literature. The three terrorists are also under investigation for using dynamite in alleged attacks.

JUNTA MEMBER MERINO RECOVERING FROM SURGERY

PY100102 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, the Chilean Navy commander and member of the military junta, is recovering from an operation he underwent at the Catholic University Hospital. Catholic University Hospital sources reported this morning that the patient is doing very well.

BRIEFS

TRADE FIGURES WITH PRC -- According to Patricio Lopez-Huici, head of the Foreign Ministry's Bilateral Economic Affairs Department, trade exchange between the PRC and Chile during the period January-May 1983 amounted to $26 million. Of this figure, $22.7 million corresponds to Chilean exports to the PRC, while the remaining $3.4 million cover Chile's purchases from the PRC. Chile's main exports to the PRC are fish meal, timber, cellulose and copper, while it imports domestic appliances, porcelain, toys, clothing, and gauze from the PRC. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 Jul 83 p c7 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO PERU NAMED -- The Chilean Foreign Ministry has reported that Foreign Ministry adviser Juan Jose Fernandez has been appointed new Chilean ambassador to Peru, replacing Jose Miguel Barros. The Peruvian Government has approved the appointment. [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Aug 83 PY]

JULY INFLATION RATE -- The head of the department of prices of the National Statistics Institute has reported that the July inflation rate was 1.9 percent and that the accumulated inflation rate in 1982 is 12.2 percent [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Aug 83 PY]

POLICE CONFIRM DEATH OF FOUR MOIR MEMBERS

PA090210 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2234 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Medellin (Colombia), 8 Aug (DPA) -- Police authorities today confirmed that four members of the Independent Workers Revolutionary Movement (MOIR) were shot to death in a military operation carried out in Remedios.

MOIR, a Colombian leftist group, disclosed through its newspaper TRIBUNA ROJA that its members were killed on Thursday while working in a gold mine that belonged to the victims. According to MOIR, Emilio Zea and Efraim Higuita had been MOIR members for 4 years and were leaders of peasant leagues. "The other two victims joined the movement over one year ago."

"Our party opposes extortion, kidnapping, and terrorism, and has no ties with any armed organizations," the movement warned when it reported the murder.

FARC GUERRILLAS KILLED IN CLASH WITH ARMY TROOPS

PA090530 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Villavicencio -- Three guerrillas of the 1st Front of the clandestine Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, have been killed in a clash with troops of the 7th Army Brigade. The dead guerrillas have not been identified by the military forces, who clashed with a FARC command on the banks of the Illiriya River near the town of San Jose del Guaviare. Army antiguerrilla forces on patrol in the area also seized a substantial amount of war materiel and subversive propaganda. Reinforcements were sent from Villavicencio to intercept the guerrillas, who fled toward a mountainous area.

BATEMAN'S DEATH FRUSTRATES REBEL ALLIANCE

PA090245 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Bucaramanga -- The death of Jaime Bateman Cayon has frustrated a three-sided guerrilla alliance in the mid-Magdalena region which was supposed to have spread to the rest of the country. The failure of this merger attempt was jointly reported here by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, and the Peoples Liberation Army [EPL] in a communique delivered to the media stating that Alvaro Fayad, in charge of the M-19 [19 April Movement] leadership, does not represent a hope for unity. The FARC and the EPL deplored the fact that M-19 leadership is now in Fayad's hands and predicted that, under his guidance, the movement is doomed to crumble.

BRIEFS

NEW REPRESENTATIVES IN EUROPE -- Bogota, 4 Aug (AFP) -- Raul Orejuela has been appointed Colombian nonresident ambassador to Finland, while Gerardo Bedoya Borrero was named head of the Colombian representation at the EEC, according to a Foreign Ministry announcement. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1031 GMT 4 Aug 83 PA]

FISCAL DEFICIT -- Bogota -- Colombia had a deficit of 49 billion pesos in its fiscal budget during the first 3 months of the year, according to a report that Comptroller General Rodolfo Gonzalez Garcia has sent to President Betancur. [Summary] [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Aug 83 PA]

HURTADO APPOINTS NEW EDUCATION MINISTER

PA090445 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado has appointed Ernesto Alban Gomez education and culture minister. Alban Gomez, who was the national secretary for public information, replaces Claudio Malo Gonzalez, who resigned because of personal reasons. The Education Ministry has had few changes since the inauguration of the constitutional government in August 1979. Galo Garcia Feraud was the first education minister, and he was replaced by Malo Gonzalez. Alban Gomez now becomes the third education and culture minister of the present regime.

MINISTER RETURNS FROM DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, BRAZIL

PA092126 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Valencia Rodriguez returned yesterday after concluding official visits to the Dominican Republic and Brazil. In the first country, he attended -- together with President Hurtado -- the SELA and ECLA meeting, which analyzed the document drafted by those bodies in connection with the strategies Latin America must adopt to overcome the economic crisis. In Brazil, the Ecuadorean foreign minister gave a lecture on international law.

Several of his aides greeted him yesterday in Quito.

BRIEFS

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE -- The Alfarist Radical Front party has nominated Jaime Aspiazu Seminario as its presidential candidate for the 1984 elections. He has been a counselor for the city of Guayaquil, a legislator from Guayas province, a senator, and a member of the cabinet. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 7 Aug 83 PA]

JOINT SLATE FOR ELECTIONS -- The People, Change, and Democracy (PCD) party and the Democratic Left (ID) party have decided on a joint presidential ticket for the 1984 elections. Dr Rodrigo Borja of the ID party will be the presidential candidate; Aquiles Rigail Santiestevan of the PCD party will join him on the ticket as the vice presidential candidate. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 7 Aug 83 PA]

RECONSTRUCTION PRESIDENTIAL TICKET -- Leon Febres Cordero and Blasco Penaherrera Padilla have accepted the presidential and vice-presidential nominations for the 1984 presidential elections from the parties that comprise the National Reconstruction Front [Frente de Reconstruccion Nacional]. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 7 Aug 83 PA]

MILITARY COMMAND REORGANIZED -- The Ecuadorean Army General Command has ordered a reorganization, placing military leaders in accordance with their rank and time in service. Division General Rene Vargas has been appointed Chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff, Division General Jose Osvaldo Suarez Rueda has been appointed Army Chief of Staff, and Division General Luis Pineiro has been appointed inspector general of the Army. [Summary] [Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Aug 83 PA]

HAVANA ON JOINT NAVY EXERCISES WITH U.S.

PA071939 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] The traditional joint military exercises between the Peruvian and U.S. Navies have begun in the area of Paita in the northern Peruvian Department of Piura. The operations include sea, air, and land maneuvers, but the number of men participating in the exercises has yet to be disclosed, the Peruvian newspaper EL COMERCIO has reported. The newspaper added that the U.S. and Peruvian ships are scheduled to arrive at the port of Callao on 11 August.

HAVANA NOTES SHINING PATH ATTACK IN ICA

PA081456 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] A Shining Path command that operates in Ica Department set fire to the provincial headquarters of the Peruvian Investigative Police. In response, the police staged a large raid and detained an undetermined number of suspects.

GOVERNMENT MAY HIRE ANTISUBVERSIVE MERCENARIES

PA081459 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] According to Peruvian Interior Minister Luis Percovich, the government is considering the possibility of hiring foreign advisers in the area of antisubversive action to counter the clandestine armed groups operating in Peru. According to the minister, Peruvian police officers and NCO's will go abroad for training in antisubversive tactics.

Meanwhile, Deputy Manuel Danert claims that the government is trying to hire paid mercenaries as advisers in antisubversive work. He added that he is deeply saddened by the hiring of Israeli advisers, because Israel aids the fascist dictatorship in Chile very effectively. According to the deputy, U.S. Argentine, and Israeli advisers are already in Peru.

HAVANA ON PLANS FOR NEW ANTIGUERRILLA STRATEGY

PA081348 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Tomorrow's meeting of the Peruvian National Defense Council has aroused great expectations, now that the Army has publicly announced that it will pursue active repression of armed groups in the country.

The meeting, which will be presided over by Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry, will be attended by top government and Armed Forces representatives, who will assess a new antiguerrilla strategy in response to the offensive unleashed by the Shining Path clandestine organization in July.

Meanwhile, dispatches from Lima report that despite the strict military control in Ayacucho, Shining Path groups hurled bombs from two vehicles at various installations, disrupting the city's power system.

SOME 100 YOUTHS DETAINED IN 6 AUG DEMONSTRATIONS

PY091607 Paris AFP in Spanish 2353 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] Montevideo, 7 Aug (AFP) -- It has been learned from political sources that more than 100 young people, including several political party delegates, were detained late Saturday night when a demonstration against the Uruguayan Government was broken up by police. Approximately 4,000 persons marched unexpectedly down Montevideo's main street last night chanting slogans against the government and clapping their hands. Antiriot policemen with clubs and bludgeons broke up the demonstration, and detained several young people and political party militants.

There was an attempt to hold a massive rally of the three authorized political parties in Uruguay yesterday, 6 August, but it was banned by the government. Political party sources reported that several persons were injured during repressive action, although there are no reports of serious injuries. The activities of political parties and all information regarding their activities were severely restricted on 2 August by the government.

Most Detainees Released

PY091705 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1620 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 8 Aug (EFE) -- The demonstration held in downtown Montevideo on Saturday night against the government ended with the detention of 83 persons, and two injured. This report was released today in an official communique which states that out of 83 detainees, 4 have been bound over to the court, and the remainder were set free "after being identified."

REQUEST TO SPONSOR FALKLANDS TRIP REJECTED

PY091455 Paris AFP in Spanish 0154 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Montevideo, 8 Aug (AFP) -- Uruguayan Foreign Minister Carlos Maeso today stated that Uruguay will not sponsor a trip to the Malvinas Islands for relatives of Argentine soldiers killed during the war with Great Britain unless it is backed by the Argentine Government.

A few days ago, Osvaldo Destefanis, chairman of the Center of Volunteers for the Fatherland, held a meeting with Uruguayan Ambassador to Argentina Walter Ravenna, who told him that official approval was required to use the country as a base for the cruise.

Destefanis asked the Uruguayan ambassador for authorization to rent a boat or airplane in Uruguay to transport relatives of soldiers killed in the islands. He reportedly had approximately $50,000 for this purpose.

A few months ago, the Uruguayan Government made contacts with the UK Government seeking permission for a similar trip, but these contacts failed. The Uruguayan foreign minister said that on that occasion the Foreign Ministry told the chairman of the Argentine center of Uruguay's decision not to acknowledge any arrangement not supported by the Argentine authorities.

EL DIA CRITICIZES U.S. INTERVENTION IN C.A.

PA090525 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 6 Aug 83 p 16

[Article by Jose Maria Calderon Rodriquez: "'Cannons and Diplomacy': U.S. Policy for Central America"; capitalized passages published in boldface]

[Text] It is no longer a secret that the Reagan administration is trying to neutralize the Contadora Group. The first indication of this is the fact that it is disregarding the existing rules of international law, ratified by the community of nations, by drastically exercising a policy of power. In this way it hopes to prove that there is only one valid interlocutor in solving the Central American problem: the U.S. Government. It would also like to prove that the attempts by Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela to establish a general framework of agreements that offer a realistic platform for the search for political and military solutions are nothing more than a warmup exercise by players on the bench who dream of taking part in the game.

Meanwhile, a naval blockade of Nicaragua may become, in a matter of hours, an invasion by MARINES, like the one that took place in the Dominican Republic in 1965. This time the invasion would be against the Sandinists and the Salvadoran rebel movement. The REAGANAUTS are trying to impose their own negotiations and regional "peace." Henry Kissinger's activities in Washington and the roving diplomat role of Richard Stone complement the policy of "military force and diplomatic moves" -- or, if you prefer, "blows and smiles" -- inaugurated by the U.S. President on 17 July to corner the four countries which comprise the Contadora Group.

The scenario that the presidential ENTOURAGE is trying to create consists, on the one hand, of exerting strong pressure against the Sandinists and the Salvadoran rebels so that they will accept the proposals for elections, nonintervention, expulsion of military advisers, and the "modernization" of regional economic and social structures. If these conditions are not accepted, the U.S. Government will break off talks and justify intervention and regionalization of the war by pitting Honduras against Nicaragua and the Salvadoran rebels, duly protected from the sea and air by the Yankee fleet. In addition, the OAS would become the appropriate forum to discuss the Central American conflict, depriving the Contadora Group of all initiative in the area.

Nevertheless, realization of this scenario is very expensive from an economic and political viewpoint -- economically, because it would mean mobilizing military resources to a degree not seen since Vietnam; politically, because the pressure grows daily from the opposition in the U.S. Congress and among the people, against a war that THE NEW YORK TIMES rightfully defined as "undesirable, immoral, unnecessary, and impossible to win."

Thus far, there is no better proposal than that presented by the Contadora Group: to abandon the path the Republican administration stubbornly insists on taking. However, the economic crisis and obstacles of the U.S. Government and its Central American puppets seem to conspire against the projected restructuring of domestic and foreign relations in the Isthmus. This is quite true. No matter how much goodwill exists, little can be achieved if there is no strong political and economic support for the new structural and institutional options for Central America. From this viewpoint, the Contadora Group's actions will be effective to the degree its call for political reason -- which has been strongly supported internationally -- is picked up by the U.S. Congress, people, and civic groups who can block the Reagan plans for a nostalgic reaffirmation of a lost hegemony in part of the American Continent that is struggling to reaffirm its own national solutions. Likewise, Latin American unity should not be mere rhetoric on Bolivar's anniversary; it should become, with historic boldness and decision, real plans and programs for political and economic cooperation.

TRADE, COOPERATION WITH ARGENTINA TO INCREASE

FL092031 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1930 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Argentina will intensify their bilateral relations in the fields of trade, technological cooperation, and industrial reciprocity, beginning with the democratic institutionalization of Argentina, Felix Pena, that country's under secretary of economic relations, asserted today.

Prior to his departure for Argentina, the official added that the more suitable sectors for the immediate bilateral and multilateral cooperation are the livestock-agricultural, oil, naval, railroad, and mining industries, as well as services such as communications and tourism, among others.

Those sectors were examined this morning in a working meeting at the Foreign Secretariat presided over by Jorge Eduardo Navarrete, under secretary for international economic relations, and by Felix Pena himself. During the meeting it was agreed to establish a Consultation and Bilateral Coordination Group.

This group, the Argentine representative explained, will be responsible for short- and long-term bilateral relations and the possibility of undertaking actions aimed at establishing bilateral enterprises to provide services and goods to third markets.

A long portion of the meeting was devoted to examining points of agreement between Mexico and Argentina in the field of multilateral relations, Under Secretary Pena stated.

In conclusion, he said he had taken advantage of his stay in Mexico to establish contacts with Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development Hector Hernandez Cervantes and Mexican Foreign Trade Institute Director Manuel Armendariz, in addition to the directors general of some state enterprises.

DE LA MADRID AT WORKERS-BUSINESSMEN CEREMONY

FL100105 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2330 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- While affirming that we are living in a world-wide political, economic, and values crisis, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid asserted that Mexicans are striving not only to survive but to emerge with better quality, reaffirming fundamental national values.

He stated that countries are unstable and societies are becoming involved in violent conflicts, and there are those who assert that because of this crisis, some countries will demonstrate their lack of vitality as independent and sovereign nations.

At the conclusion of the ceremony marking the signing of a national solidarity agreement between representatives of workers and businessmen at the National Palace, the chief executive said we live in a world of political, economic, and values crisis.

He stressed that Mexicans will consolidate what we inherited from Mexicans of yesterday: an independent, sovereign, free people, who want to live in an integral democracy with reference to political, economic, and social matters.

He said Mexicans have more positive elements and resources than problems, mistakes, and deviations to confront; we should point out the nationalism and political talent which reaffirms solidarity during difficult moments.

He said that by strengthening unity we will have a stronger nation to face the dangers with responsiblity, and will be able to raise the nation's level of quality and continue to build the free and just fatherland we all want.

He indicated that the solidarity agreement signed today by workers and businessmen demonstrates the Mexicans' responsible attitude, and reiterated his commitment to improve the government's efficiency by acting with true honesty and to continue to seek harmony among all Mexicans.

LEFTIST LEADERS CONTINUE SIT-IN IN OAXACA

PA072340 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2354 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Aug (EFE) -- The Labor, Peasant, Student Coalition of the Isthmus (COCEI) today refused to abandon the Juchitan municipal palace in the state of Oaxaca despite the fact that its communist officials have been discredited by the congress.

The COCEI, which won the Juchitan municipal elections in 1980 by forming a coalition with the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM), lost its power in Oaxaca municipality this week following a series of violent clashes in which two persons were killed.

The clashes were a result of confrontations between the COCEI-PSUM coalition and militants from the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party.

The leftist militants refuse to abandon the Juchitan municipal palace, claiming that the discrediting of the officials, headed by Leopoldo De Gyves, goes against the people's wishes.

The Oaxaca Congress is upholding its decision, despite the fact that Gyves and his followers have appealed to the authorities. Despite the appeal, another municipal council has been set up, although it is outside the municipal building.

Leftist forces state that they will not resist an eviction attempt, but have asked for a referendum to prove that they have the people's support.

The referendum will be held Sunday, at the same time people in the rest of the state of Oaxaca will be going to the polls to elect the local congress.

While the COCEI and the PRI have been trading accusations as to the responsibility for the clash, in which 2 persons were killed and more than 30 injured, the country's political circles have called for moderation and for the people to refrain from violence.

Juchitan is the second largest city in the state of Oaxaca.

BRIEFS

HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY APPOINTMENT -- Mexican Defense Secretary General Juan Arevalo Gardoqui attended a ceremony yesterday in which Division General Salvador Lopez Matamoros was sworn in as director general of the Department of Military Industry, replacing General Alonso Aguirre Ramos. [Summary] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 6 Aug 83 p 3 PA]

GUARD HIGH COMMAND ACCUSED OF PRESS CENSORSHIP

PA080355 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Aug 83 p 8-D

[Article by Wilfi Jimenez]

[Text] Mario Martinez Puente, secretary general of the Journalists Union of Panama, has -- on behalf of the union -- accused the National Guard High Command of attempting to censor and control newspapers published by Editora Renovacion, S.A. [ERSA], as well as other information media. Martinez also accused Guillermo Rodolfo Valdes, the new director of the newspaper CRITICA, of persecuting newsmen and union leaders.

Martinez, who presented his charges this week at a press conference, said that the dismissals and transfers of newsmen that have taken place in ERSA violate the law and the Labor Code.

Martinez said he suspects the government-appointed Orientation and Ethics Commission, which is comprised of Diogenes de la Rosa, Balbino Moreno, and Harmodio Icaza, is "designed to control" the media.

According to Martinez, commission head De la Rosa addressed ERSA employees at a meeting and warned that "from now on the president, the National Guard commander, and the Guard High Command will issue instructions to ERSA newspapers through the Orientation and Ethics Commission. One else, not even the ERSA general manager himself, will be able to give orders, and those newsmen who dislike this know what do...."

The union secretary general described the commission as a "censorship board," and warned about the control "being imposed on most communications media in the country to support General Paredes' presidential candidacy" at the same time that "there is talk about a democratic process which guarantees equal opportunity for all candidates."

Martinez criticized acts of violence that have taken place at ERSA, because "the Journalists Union rejects this kind of behavior and disapproves of it." He explained that these actions have been carried out by journalism students. However, as this paper was going to press, a union source told LA PRENSA that reporters Jose Angel "Toti" Urriola and Carlos Jeronimo Nunez were dismissed for disciplinary reasons, for writing insults with a can of spray paint on ERSA's walls and for throwing a stink bomb, which made it necessary to evacuate the building.

Martinez mentioned the transfers by which several newsmen were "demoted," and asserted that "the CRITICA issue is a labor issue and as such, it has been referred to the Labor Ministry's Conciliation Department."

The union newsmen said that a strike with the support of the typesetters' union could be carried out at ERSA if this problem is not resolved soon.

EL SALVADOR, COSTA RICA RECOGNIZE MEJIA REGIME

PA091712 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1617 GMT 9 Aug 83

[By Luis Marroquin Godoy]

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 9 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran, Salvadoran, and Costa Rican Governments were the first to announce their official recognition of the new Guatemalan regime led by General Oscar Mejia Victores.

Newspapers are carrying many pictures of the more than twenty people who were wounded -- according to the fire department -- and of the eight who were killed in the brief clash at the Central Plaza, while granting only secondary importance to the new head of state.

BELIZE

BROADCASTING REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED

FL091751 Bridgetown CANA in English 1745 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Aug 9, CANA -- Belize's House of Representatives has passed a bill making provision for the proper administration, management and regulation of broadcasting and television here. Deputy Prime Minister C.L.B. Rogers, who has responsibility for broadcasting, said the new law was long overdue. He said the government had promised Belizeans national television and planned to meet its commitment.

The House of Representatives also gave the government the go-ahead to ratify the United Nations Law of the Sea Treaty. Prime Minister George Price said that Belize as a coastal country had much to benefit from the treaty.

COSTA RICA

VOLIO ON RELATIONS WITH GUATEMALA AFTER COUP

PA100059 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2252 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] San Jose, 9 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez has told ACAN-EFE that Costa Rica's diplomatic relations with Guatemala will not change following the coup against President Rios Montt.

The head of Costa Rican diplomacy today denied that his government has issued a "statement of recognition" of the new Guatemalan regime headed by General Oscar Mejia Victores. Volio Jimenez explained that "the Costa Rican system does not require such recognition, since in this case there was no break in diplomatic relations."

MEXICAN OPPOSITION TO CONTADORA ENTRY DENIED

PA090305 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] The government does not believe Mexico prevented Costa Rica's entry into the Contadora Group. A communique from Presidential House dismissed a report by a morning newspaper that the Mexican Government prevented Costa Rica's admission into the Contadora Group.

Regarding the Sunday visit to Costa Rica by Jaime Lusinchi, the presidential candidate of the Venezuelan Democratic Action Party, it was reported that only the prospects for strengthening political, economic, and social ties between the two countries were discussed.

The presidency reiterated its support for the efforts of the Contadora Group to achieve peace in Central America and reasserted its relations of mutual respect with the Mexican Government.

When questioned about this report, Foreign Minister Fernando Volio said he had no knowledge of any action by Mexico to this effect, adding: We continue to support the efforts of the Contadora Group.

HAVANA CITES OPPOSITION TO U.S. MANEUVERS

PA080455 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] A poll conducted by the Costa Rican newspaper UNIVERSIDAD reveals that a considerable number of Costa Ricans oppose the U.S. military maneuvers scheduled to be carried out in Central American waters. Rafael Angel Calderon, former Costa Rican foreign minister, has said that the exercises do not facilitate the promotion of a regional dialogue. The opinions of Calderon, a well-known supporter of U.S. policies in Central America, appeared in the latest edition of UNIVERSIDAD.

NICARAGUAN REBELS REPORTEDLY ACT 'WITH IMPUNITY'

PA080458 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Aug 83

[Text] The Costa Rican media have reported that Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries act publicly and with impunity in that country. Radio Reloj aired excerpts of an interview between Costa Rican deputies and members of the self-styled ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] band, who said that they freely carry out all kinds of activities in Costa Rica.

The weekly LIBERTAD reports that, taking advantage of the high unemployment in the areas bording Nicaragua, the counterrevolutionaries offer Costa Ricans up to $100 a month to enroll in their groups. LIBERTAD adds that, in addition, the bandits attack the Sandinist forces on the border in order to make it easier for local rustlers to steal cattle in Nicaragua.

EL SALVADOR

D'AUBUISSON ANNOUNCES ELECTIONS FOR EARLY 1984

PA092234 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2044 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Roberto D'Aubuisson, president of the Salvadoran Constituent Assembly, told ACAN-EFE today that the presidential, vice presidential, and mayoral elections will be held in El Salvador during the first 3 months of 1984.

The official repoted that the decision to hold the elections at that time was made yesterday during a private meeting attended by representatives of all political parties. The meeting also chose 1 May 1984 as the date on which the new Salvadoran president will be sworn into office.

D'Aubuisson noted that following the agreement among the parties, some provisional articles of the new constitution will be drafted in the next few days, leaving only the election of new deputies pending.

The president of the Constituent Assembly and leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) stated that if the left should decide to participate in the upcoming elections, the only change that would be made would be a provision for the election of deputies at the same time. "However, if the left decides to participate in the elections, it will have to lay down its weapons, since it is not logical to have armed groups backing a political party," D'Aubuisson added.

Regarding the possibility of opening a dialogue between the guerrillas and the official peace commission, D'Abuisson said that the left had sought contact through Richard Stone, U.S. ambassador at large for Central America, "but I am not aware if this has taken shape."

ASSEMBLY POSTPONES CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE

PA100436 Paris AFP in Spanish 2323 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Aug (AFP) -- The Salvadoran Constituent Assembly today postponed the opening of debate on the draft constitution, for another 8 days "in order to analyze proposals presented in the past few days by different groups."

The discussions were scheduled to begin today at 1000, but the Assembly's president, Roberto D'Aubuisson, instead announced the postponement, to the surprise of journalists and members of the public, who had filled the gallery in the legislature.

Maria Julia Castillo, a member of the Assembly's Board of Directors, explained that several organizations, institutions, and national sectors had put forth and sent in writing "valuable contributions and suggestions that could not be disregarded" in the preparation of the new constitution.

Deputies from different parties expressed approval of the measure announced by D'Aubuisson, and said that it is proper and even obligatory to analyze these documents.

Political circles here commented on the possibility that the congressional decision might be "another dilatory tactic" to postpone the promulgation of a constitution.

POLITICAL LEADERS COMMENT ON GUATEMALAN COUP

PA100130 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2143 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Roberto D'Aubuisson, president of the Salvadoran Constituent Assembly, said today that the recent coup in Guatemala should not affect the efforts of the Contadora Group in its search for multilateral solutions to the problems which the countries of Central America have with Nicaragua.

In an exclusive statement to ACAN-EFE, the official noted that the coup in Guatemala, which placed General Oscar Mejia Victores in power, "might be reflected in a feeling of instability in Central America until the new government has been consolidated, mainly with regard to the Contadora Group proposition."

D'Aubuisson pointed out that Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica have agreed to search for joint solutions to their problems with Nicaragua, "but until we are sure of the course that the new Guatemalan Government will take, we will be on the lookout to see if it will continue to adhere to this decision."

D'Aubuisson, leader of the rightwing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), said that logically, it is not in the interests of any Central American country to come to a bilateral agreement with Nicaragua, as was first proposed by the Contadora Group, formed by Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela.

The president of the Salvadoran Assembly said that "it is a very touchy matter to give opinions on the internal affairs of other countries, but we hope that the coup will benefit the Guatemalan people, because the people are the ones who suffer the consequences when these movements are negative."

Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party, told ACAN-EFE that "it is difficult to foresee what will happen in Guatemala after the coup, because at times, in trying to correct errors, the cure turns out to be worse than the ailment."

Rey Prendes said that the deposed leader, General Efrain Rios Montt, "was under strong pressure to begin a democratization process in Guatemala, and, due to an earlier coup attempt, had announced an opening for the participation of political parties."

"The Rios Montt government had a very peculiar characteristic. It was too personalistic and mystical in its positions. This was a real novelty that would be difficult to sustain for very long in that country," Rey Prendes said.

The secretary general of the Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party said that Guatemalan political parties should now act with caution and wait to see what course the new government will follow, since they were completely left out during the Rios Montt administration. He noted that it is not yet clear if the Central American crisis will worsen, following the coup in Guatemala but those who carried out the military coup have said in their first statements that they will pay more attention to guerrilla warfare than to social problems.

However, Rey Prendes pointed out, "we do not know if these are merely statements, or if they will be converted into some sort of action."

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER ON AGRARIAN REFORM

PA090515 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 8 Aug 83

["Meet the Press" program with Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich, leader of the Christian Democratic Party, and guest moderator, DPA journalist Hector Eduardo Mancia -- live]

[Excerpts] [Mancia] Good afternoon, sir. On behalf of DPA, we would like to ask you, on the subject of the very complex current political situation, what is your analysis of El Salvador's present and future?

[Morales Ehrlich] It would be a shame to go back to traditional military dictatorships or to a misuse of powers as was the case in the past. The idea is somewhat appealing to certain politicians today. The country's most reactionary groups are to blame for the radicalism and violence that have been unleashed. As a result of this, violence began and the guerrillas emerged, etc.

Now, when a solution seems to be in sight, it would be a shame for the reactionary forces, who are to blame for all of this, to be returned to power. That is why I hope that -- and I think the Salvadorans have understood it -- we will go on to a new era, into a new society with a renewed man, where we will all be able to meet and begin building a better future for our homeland.

[Mancia] Dr Ehrlich, just yesterday when we were speaking with Agriculture Minister Miguel Mason Muyshondt Yudice, he told us that at the end of this month the media and the Salvadoran people will receive authentic, detailed reports on the serious evaluation that has been made of the land reform programs carried out under the Agriculture Ministry. Meanwhile, the political parties will continue to be deeply involved in the discussion of Articles 104 and 105. For some, this is the end of the hopes for land reform in El Salvador. For other political bodies, it marks the beginning of a new struggle to arrest those trends in the Salvadoran agrarian sector which generated some of the violence we are experiencing today. As one of the driving forces behind the land reform program, how do you feel about this?

[Morales Ehrlich] Articles 104 and 105 contained in the draft of the new constitution are an attempt to do away with land reform in order to avoid the further distribution of land to peasants -- just like that, in one feel swoop, just kill it off completely.

This demonstrates one thing: First, that the current administration, contrary to its earlier pledges, does not support the reform. Furthermore, it handed over management of the reform to the extreme right, the very group which had promised to do away with reform. He handed over its management to them.

The peasants, however, had been armed with certain mechanisms to protect themselves from the government; this is ridiculous but true.

The Salvadoran Federation of Land Reform Cooperatives [Federacion Salvadorena de Cooperativas de Reforma Agraria -- FESACORA] as well as the ACOPAI [Associations of Cooperatives of Integrated Agricultural-Livestock Products] and the others are organizations which are made up of many cooperatives and can mobilize their members to defend themselves against the government's destructive action. That is why they have not been able to destroy the cooperative system.

All is not lost in this country, however. On the contrary, the people have matured, have opened their eyes, and have matured a great deal. We are in an electoral period, and we are certain that by gaining power through elections, an impetus will once again be given to this type of associative venture, which is the best system of production and which best distributes wealth and the fruits of national output to Salvadorans.

In reference to your question, I can tell you that land reform will be evaluated by those who have tried to destroy it. I am not very interested in the evaluation. Many well-known and respectable firms have already conducted evaluations, and that is all right. They want to put a legal end to a process which creates its own dynamics, disregarding the violence and other consequences that this may entail. But, within a democratic system, only the people, by casting their ballots, can rescue or amend this process. That is what we are doing.

Regarding the possible postponment of the elections, I believe this to be a result of a desperate attempt by this country's rightwing to regain -- not really its unity -- but some of its lost strength, and of its desperate attempts to do better in the elections, even by trying to gain an advantage through ulitization of the government apparatus. This is quite obvious. It has recently been learned that this involves certain ministries and individuals, such as the Public Works Ministry, the minister of the presidency, the presidency itself, and one can see a return to the past, to a misuse of power, to the use of the entire mechanism of government to see how they can win the elections. They even hope to obtain some help from the military authorities to obtain that victory.

To me, this is why the rightists do not want to hold elections soon, but on the contrary, are trying to stall for as much time as they possibly can.

The reason for holding elections this year is related to the fact that the process of democratization has to be strengthened as soon as possible, and one must keep in mind that a transitional government has its limits. Indeed, such a regime brings with it a series of problems and a stagnation that results from all the economic, political, and cultural activities in the country being bogged down.

This impasse must be broken through elections. We must obtain a government that is popularly elected, powerful, legitimate, and strong, one that will truly give renewed impetus to the Salvadoran process and achieve what you said at the outset -- a political solution. Only a responsible government, which is strong and legitimate and which enjoys national and international support will bring peace to El Salvador.

HAVANA QUOTES RIVERA Y DAMAS SUNDAY HOMILY

PA090205 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, said in his Sunday homily that repression by the Armed Forces in no way contributes to efforts aimed at convening talks which might lead to talks aimed at the pacification of the country. Msgr Rivera y Damas added that political and economic repression, in the form of increased prices of staples, also creates popular discontent. The archbishop also demanded the release of four employees of the Archbishopric Social Secretariat who were arrested 8 days ago. He pointed out that all these cases make the path toward peace more difficult and bring more doubt to claims that the human rights situation in El Salvador has improved.

MILITARY ISSUES REPORT ON RECENT CLASHES

PA090523 San Salvador Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 8 Aug 83

[Text] Armed Forces dispatches report that the village of Laguna, north of the provincial capital of Chalcatenango and approximately 70 km from San Salvador, has been bombed by the Salvadoran Air Force to prevent the concentration of a large number of rebels spotted in the area by military intelligence.

The reports add that last Saturday in Concepcion Quetzaltepeque, the Army intercepted a large group of guerrillas who had ambushed one of their patrols only moments before. According to the military report, the government troops suffered nine casualties in the ambush.

Those same reports point out that operations continue in the northern part of Chalatenango Department. These actions seek to prevent the guerrilla units from regrouping, and are also part of the search for the camps from which leftist groups harass small villages in Chalatenango Department.

Reports received from civilians -- due to another communications blackout in the eastern part of the country -- point out that a late afternoon clash took place this week between Puerto El Triunfo and Jiquilisco involving the guerrillas and units from the Salvadoran Army who are patrolling the area.

According to the same official [as heard] report, due to the poor light at that hour, five civilians were killed near Puerto El Triunfo when they were caught in a cross-fire between guerrillas and the Army. We have learned from reports that the five civilians were peasants on their way back from work near Jiquilisco who, because of a lack of transport, were walking alongside the road when the unfortunate incident took place in Usulutan Department.

SAN VICENTE CLEANUP, RESTORATION CONTINUE

PA092240 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 9 Aug 83 p 5

[Text] San Vicente -- Soldiers of the "peace forces" have been searching for rebels since Saturday on San Pedro Hill and in the La Burrera and Los Ayala cantons.

According to military reports, the soldiers discovered a column of extremists that was heading for the country's eastern region. A pitched battle, lasting from 0900 Saturday until noon Sunday, took place soon afterward.

Following the bloody clash, in which artillery participated, government troops patrolled the area and found four subversives dead and one wounded, who was taken prisoner. Evidence found in the area indicated that the terrorists took away many wounded. It was reported that the Army suffered two killed and seven wounded.

The din of the artillery used in the heavy fighting could be heard in this city.

It has also been reported that troops are patrolling San Vicente Department in order not to give the extremists an opportunity to regroup.

"Operation Welfare and Peace for San Vicente" is underway in this department. Involved in the operation are several cabinet ministries, which are restoring and repairing bridges, feeder roads, city streets, health centers, schools, telegraph and telephone service, postal service, electricity, etc.

The sources also said that the program being implemented by the National Commission for Reconstruction of Affected Areas includes the reactivation of agriculture and livestock breeding throughout the eastern region. The program began in this department and will continue in Usulutan.

Additional Military Actions Reported

PA100345 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Some 10 soldiers have been killed during the operations carried out by the Armed Forces against guerrillas in the northern department of Chalatenango.

According to our source, the skirmishes have been taking place in the areas of San Fernando and San Francisco Morazan for approximately 10 days, and involved units from the 4th Infantry Brigade and from Detachment No 1, Chalatenango. The source added that at least 20 men, officers and enlisted, have been captured by the extremists. Their whereabouts are unknown.

YSU has learned from reliable sources that subversives launched an attack early yesterday against the Apopa substation of the Rio Lempa Hydroelectric Executive Commission. The sources added that during the first hours of combat, the guerrillas and guards from the substation exchanged heavy fire, and that as the hours went by, the shooting subsided. The encounter lasted approximately 4 hours, according to our sources. It is not known whether there were casualties on either side, or whether the installations were damaged in any way.

A Salvadoran Air Force helicopter was slightly damaged when it was fired upon last weekend as it overflew the hills of San Pedro, in the northern part of San Vicente Department. The report was released to YSU by Colonel Dionisio Hernandez, commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade, who said that the helicopter was able to continue on its way and return to its home base without incident. The colonel noted that the event took place during clashes with guerrillas in the region, where troops later found the bodies of nine insurgents.

According to clandestine radio reports, 27 members of the Armed Forces who had been captured by leftists were released in the eastern department of Morazan. The official FMLN station reported that 16 customs policemen, including a commander, an inspector, and a deputy inspector, were released.

It was also reported that six national guardsmen were set free, including Corporal Jose Armando Chevez, who had been interviewed by the insurgents on previous broadcasts in reference to alleged National Guard activities.

In addition, one national policeman, two members of the Belloso Battalion, and two from the Atlacatl Battalion were also freed. An official Armed Forces report on the release of these prisoners by the guerrillas has not yet been issued.

Military sources have disclosed that the Armed Forces discovered a guerrilla camp in the village of Poza Azul, in San Vicente, between km 75 and 76 of the Pan-American Highway. The Army has been carrying out operations to wipe out guerrilla redoubts for approximately 2 months as part of the "Welfare for San Vicente" campaign.

Heavy clashes took place yesterday between the Salvadoran Army and rebel units fighting the government in the areas of Cinquera, Tejutepeque, and nearby places in Cabanas Department.

The clashes have been going on for 2 days now as part of an operation initated by government troops in an attempt to rid the area of subversive elements. The operation is being conducted jointly by military detachments from Sensuntepeque and Chalatenango. At the time this report was written, no casualties had yet been reported on either side.

A large number of guerrillas were spoted yesterday in Santo Domingo, in San Vicente Department. According to our source, the guerrillas had a repeater of the clandestine Radio Venceremos with them in the area which they had been using to transmit their broadcasts. The source added that inhabitants of the area discovered the existence of that repeater, but failed to notify the Armed Forces, which carried out a search and found no subversives, although they did find evidence of the repeater.

GUATEMALA

RIOS MONTT OFFICIALLY RESIGNS, WHEREABOUTS UNCLEAR

PA091201 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1111 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] At a brief ceremony held in an unspecified room of the Presidential Palace, General Efrain Rios Montt officially resigned his post as president of the republic, according to reliable sources.

The sources revealed that at approximately 1400 yesterday, Gen Rios Montt, accompanied by former Government Minister Colonel Ricardo Mendez Ruiz, arrived at the National Palace to sign the official document of resignation, as requested by the commanders of the air, sea, and ground forces.

Despite having signed the resignation, Gen Rios Montt did not attend the swearing-in ceremony in which General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores was proclaimed head of state. Mejia Victores explained that former President Rios Montt probably preferred not to attend the transfer of power ceremony for sentimental reasons.

Exact Whereabouts Uncertain

PA091654 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1623 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Although nothing has been announced officially as to the whereabouts of former President General Efrain Rios Montt, it has been ascertained that after his overthrow he was taken to his residence in the Tecunuman neighborhood, a middle-class housing district created especially for Army officers. The neighborhood is located in Zone 15, in the eastern part of the capital, on the highway to El Salvador.

It has been learned that General Efrain Rios Montt remained at the presidential house for 2 hours yesterday after he was replaced by General Oscar Mejia Victores, the current head of state. Former President Rios Montt arrived at the Defense Ministry office under heavy guard at 1400 yesterday to sign the transfer of power document.

Nothing more has been heard of him since then, except that he is officially on reserve status in the Army.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECREE LIFTS STATE OF ALARM

PA092327 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 2226 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text of Decree 88-83; read by announcer]

[Text] Considering that it is advantageous to fully restore the rights of the people as established in the Constitution and for citizens to be able to continue, without obstacles or restrictions of any kind, with all the activities guaranteed by the law, including political activities;

Considering that to achieve these purposes it is necessary to annul Decree 71-83, which established the state of alarm throughout the country;

In exercise of the authority conferred by Article 4 of the Constitution and amended by Decree 36-83 and 87-83, the Council of Ministers has agreed:

1. To annul Decree 71-83, which established the state of alarm throughout the country.

2. This decree will be implemented immediately and must be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the National Palace, Guatemala City, on the 8th day of the month of August of 1983.

To be published and implemented.

[Signed] General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, head of state and national defense minister
Manuel de Jesus Giron Tanchez, secretary general for the head of state
Aroldo Cabrera Enriquez, acting government minister
Leopoldo Sandoval Villela, agriculture, livestock and foodstuffs minister
Luis Hugo Solares Aguilar, acting communications and public works minister
Rolando Mendez Mora, education minister
(Arturo Padilla Lira), economy minister
Leonardo Figueroa Villate, finance minister
Edgar Sarceno Morgan, acting foreign minister
Adolfo Castaneda Felice, public health and social assistance minister
Otto Palma Figueroa, labor and social planning minister

SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE ON SPECIAL COURTS

PA091709 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1632 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] The status of the special courts will be determined by the Supreme Court of Justice, which will try to transfer the cases that have been assigned to them to the common courts, according to an announcement by General Oscar Humberto Victores, the new head of state.

Gen Mejia Victores, on assuming the presidency yesterday, said that he had issued specific instructions to abolish the horrible special courts that sent 15 people to their deaths, and to transfer their jurisdictions to the common courts. Thus far, however, there has been no official information on when these special courts will cease operation. This will depend upon the decision of the Surpeme Court of Justice, which, according to Gen Mejia Victores, will undertake the necessary study.

With the elimination of these secret courts, at least 10 people who stand charged with common crimes will be turned over to the common courts, where they will be tried in accordance with normal procedures.

The special courts were created by General Rios Montt through a decree-law late in July 1982 and began operating on 15 August. Since then, 15 people have been executed for alleged terrorist actions against the nation's institutions.

REPORT SAYS COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION

PA091930 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Rumors had caused anxiety among members of the State Council at the council building. However, they then heard on a radio and television network that the State Council would continue to function, because it is a very important organization for the government.

Their previous state of anxiety did not prevent the State Council members from making toasts in the office of the State Council president, who arrived around noon. When General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores announced that the council would continue to function, the council members shouted with joy and satisfaction.

MEJIA SAYS COUP CONSOLIDATED, SUPPORTS U.S.

PA092343 Paris AFP in Spanish 2314 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Aug (AFP) -- General Oscar Humberto Mejia, the new Guatemalan head of state, today stated that the Contadora Group "has nothing to do in Central America" and sharply reprimanded Nicaragua for maintaining an "aggressive" policy against the other countries of the region.

During his first press conference held this afternoon at the Presidential Palace amid great expectation, General Mejia stated that the coup d'etat that placed him in power on Monday "has been consolidated."

Denying reports that there are groups of Guatemalan military men who are not pleased with his appointment, Mejia said that "there are no young officers in the army, only subordinates, superiors, and generals."

Asked about his government's position on the problem of the region, General Mejia stressed the idea that "the Central American problems must be solved by the Central Americans," and added that the Contadora Group "has nothing to do" on the Isthmus.

Mejia also said that the U.S. Government is not developing an "aggressive" policy against Nicaragua, and added that "it is the Nicaraguans" who are training "subversives" who will later fight in Guatemala and other countries.

Mejia said that his government will maintain its neutrality with regard to the other Central American countries, but added that "at the right time we will become more involved in the region's problems as concerned Central Americans."

In addition, the general denied that his weekend visit to Honduras, where he met with the chief of the U.S. Southern Command, had any connection with the movement that overthrew General Rios Montt on 8 August and installed him in the post of chief executive.

He noted that he attended this event as a guest of the chief of the U.S. Southern Command, like Salvadoran Defense Minister General Eugenio Vides and Honduran Armed Forces Chief General Gustavo Alvarez.

Mejia contended that the movement that brought him to power "is consolidated," and he brushed aside certain military actions which have taken place in the last few hours to reject his appointment.

Questioned about the troop movements in San Sebastian at daybreak and this morning a few blocks from the National Palace, Mejia said that they were "merely training."

He also denied having any knowledge of a document issued by the so-called young officers today during a brief message broadcast over a local radio station, in which the officers reject the imposition of Mejia as head of state and accuse him of being "responsible for the massacres in the interior."

At the same time, he announced a general amnesty for an indefinite length of time that will cover all Guatemalan citizens.

Mejia reiterated his disposition to eliminate the special courts created by Rios Montt's government, which seriously damaged Guatemala's image, but said that they will be retained for the time being until the Supreme Court recommends steps to eliminate them.

Regarding internal matters, Mejia said that Rios Montt's cabinet will be maintained for the time being and did not specify when he will announce new appointments. With respect to the fate of the overthrown head of state, who, he said, "was and continues to be my friend," Mejia indicated that he is free and not under house arrest as rumored. "He is free like any other citizen and can go wherever he pleases."

General Mejia said that the problem of the guerrilla movement is "nearly resolved," but announced that the struggle against it will continue "because it still represents something of a nuisance."

In conclusion, he announced that the Honduran, Costa Rican, and Salvadoran Governments have recognized this country's new rulers because most of them apply the doctrine of automatic recognition in the event of a coup d'etat. Mejia held the news conference in military uniform minutes after meeting with the representative of the Catholic Church and with the rector and deans of the University of San Carlos.

Alleges Sandinist 'Threat'

PA100202 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0055 GMT 10 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Guatemala, 9 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- General Oscar Mejia Victores, the new Guatemalan head of state, this afternoon pointed out at a press conference that the Sandinist government is a threat to the entire American Continent, while expressing his support for U.S. policy in the region.

Gen Mejia Victores indicated that the Sandinists are a threat, "not only to Guatemala, but to the entire continent," and added that "this country is the object of aggression by the Managua Government through support for subversion."

"Guatemala supports U.S. policy regarding Nicaragua, since it seems to me to be the best" said the head of the government. He then asked: "Or should we support Russia?"

Mejia Victores explained that Guatemala will remain neutral in its foreign policy regarding the incidents between Honduras and Nicaragua, but added that "when the appropriate moment comes, we will defend Central American interests." He also dismissed for the time being the idea that Guatemala would allow installation of bases with American troops, and denied this was the topic of his talks in Tegucigalpa with Brigadier General Paul Gorman, commander of the U.S. Southern Command based in Panama.

MEJIA INTERVIEWED ON CONTADORA, EXILES, RIOS MONTT

FL091803 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1350 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Telephone interview with General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, by Miguel Angel Vargas]

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- The new Guatemalan head of state, General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, has told NOTIMEX that his government supports the Contadora Group's negotiating efforts, and that Guatemalan exiles may return to their country without danger.

In a telephone interview, the new head of state of Guatemala said that relations between Guatemala and Mexico should be good and gave assurances that former President Rios Montt could live in peace.

The text of the interview follows:

[Vargas] Gen Oscar Humberto Mejia, can you tell us what happened in Guatemala?

[Mejia] Yes, a change of authority took place. I assumed power as head of state and commanding general of the Army, and there were no problems. To all Guatemalans living in Mexico -- Guatemala is still Guatemala, and there is freedom for everyone.

[Vargas] General, sir, what will be the new government's basic principles?

[Mejia] The basic principles will include self-determination of peoples, honoring all international obligations, and maintaining democracy, since we are part of the Western sphere. That is basic to us -- respect for human rights, including ending the state of alarm which had been imposed. I have signed a decree ending the state of alarm this Tuesday [9 August], and stating that everyone has the right to express himself like any normal person. There will also be another decree, which is being prepared, on the elimination of the special courts....

[Vargas] General, sir, what will happen to General Efrain Rios Montt?

[Mejia] He will quietly assume the status of unassigned general. He has already retired to his private residence and was given appropriate security....

[Vargas] General, sir, regarding another subject: Insistent rumors circulated here this morning that the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala played a very important role in this change in power. Can you tell us about this?

[Mejia] I believe that in that respect, time will show the change which was hoped for....

[Vargas] Sir, it is also being said that your government will support the Contadora Group measures....

[Mejia] Part of it, the part we had considered, always bearing in mind that Central American problems must be solved by Central Americans....

[Vargas] Sir, people are talking about confrontations. What can you tell us about this?

[Mejia] Confrontations? With whom?

[Vargas] Within the same guard that supported Gen Rios Montt.

[Mejia] Well, they did not last very long. It was nervousness more than anything. Frequently, personnel, when they have been on duty, become desperate, depending on the situation, and there was, let us say ... a slight indiscretion with no serious consequences....

[Vargas] General, sir, (?what is) the present situation in Guatemala City?

[Mejia] Normal calm; normal activity for everyone.

[Vargas] Sir, can you give a message to Guatemalans living in Mexico City, in the country....

[Mejia] I wish them well. As citizens, they are free to decide to return, to come, to do whatever they want....

[Vargas] Sir, how will relations between your country and Mexico develop from now on?

[Mejia] They must be as friendly as possible. I believe that we are two sister nations as well as neighbours, which is all the more reason why we should understand each other.... I hope we will. I owe a debt to Mexico; I studied there.

[Vargas] Sir, there are many Guatemalan exiles and refugees in Mexico. What can you say about them?

[Mejia] Whenever they want to return, we will give them all the protection necessary so they can live peacefully.

[Vargas] There will be no reprisals against them?

[Mejia] None.

OPPOSITION TO MEJIA AS HEAD OF STATE REPORTED

Armed Demonstration Reported

PA091735 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1715 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Some 600 militarymen loyal to former President Efrain Rios Montt staged a demonstration with heavy weapons this morning in front of the Presidential House and the National Palace. The movement was allegedly staged to overthrow General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, who became head of state after staging a coup yesterday. The demonstration staged by the militarymen loyal to Rios Montt was held at about 0900, when, after gathering near Morazan Park in Zone 2, they tried to march toward the Presidential House and the National Palace along Sixth Avenue.

The demonstration created panic among passers-by, who assumed that a new coup was being staged. As a result, the troops and officers guarding the Presidential House and the National Palace came out to stop the officers who were supposedly marching toward the new leader's home.

The march near the Presidential House, which almost led to a confrontation between militarymen loyal to former President Efrain Rios Montt and followers of current Head of State Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, demonstrated that Mejia Victores does not have the full support of the Guatemalan military. This morning's evident confrontation was controlled after the two groups held talks for 3 hours near the Presidential House. Afterward, the militarymen loyal to Rios Montt withdrew with all their weapons, which included cannon, armored vehicles, and other heavy weapons.

The officers loyal to Rios Montt feel that the current head of state is a traitor because he did not respect the confidence that the former president placed in him.

Young Officers Issue Communique

PA091839 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1741 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] The so-called young officers, who overthrew the Lucas administration but were removed from political power yesterday, issued a communique this morning attacking General Oscar Humberto Victores, the new head of state. The communique was broadcast on Radio La Voz del Hogar at 1030. The transmission lasted only a few minutes because the station's operator lowered the volume to cut off the communique.

The young officers who, with their leader, General Efrain Rios Montt, left the government yesterday, stated this morning in their communique, which was broadcast on Radio La Voz del Hogar via a transmission orgiginating on the street, that they oppose the new head of government. The young officers directly accused Mejia Victores of perpetrating various atrocities in the interior.

A man read the document and delivered a tirade against the new military leader for a few minutes, saying that the group will not abandon their struggle to overthrow him. According to the station's communications expert, the communique was broadcast by means of a powerful radio that interfered with the station's normal transmissions. Fortunately, the operator indicated, it was stopped in time.

Army Sectors Oppose Mejia

PA092150 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2109 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Some Guatemalan Army sectors support the coup against Rios Montt but oppose General Oscar Mejia Victores as head of state, a military source reported today.

The source said an Army colonel kept his troops stationed in full gear a few blocks from the Government Palace and Presidential House. They were withdrawn at noon today after several hours of negotiations with the new authorities. The colonel, who declined to reveal his identity, noted that his troops withdrew following negotiations with the aides of the new head of state, but did not disclose the reason for the negotiations or the agreement that was reached. The officer leads a tactical command headquartered in Guatemala's interior (at an unspecified location).

Other military sources said that other military bases in the capital maintained "semipassive resistance" to Gen Mejia Victores' appointment as new Guatemalan head of state. The sources said two bases were involved, but did not specify which.

Meanwhile, the new chief executive has been attending to business at the Presidential House and receiving civilian and military authorities today.

Journalistic sources today noticed an unusual quartering of troops in the buildings of the former military shcool, a few steps away from the Honor Guard's quarters. Some soldiers are still wearing their shirtsleeves rolled up, which identifies the soldiers who staged the coup.

PERSONALITIES REACT TO COUP, MEJIA INSTALLATION

Lopez Denies Planning Coup

PA100055 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2358 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- General Oscar Lopez Fuentes, the chief of the General Staff, who is considered the initiator of yesterday's coup d'etat, today justified the movement by calling it "a result of the spontaneity" of all the commanders of Guatemala's 22 military bases.

Speaking with newsmen in a corridor of the National Palace, Lopez Fuentes denied that some military sectors are opposed to the appointment of General Oscar Mejia Victores as head of state.

The first signatory of the proclamation released by the Army said that "we slowly reached a consensus among the commanders that finally materialized yesterday in our final objective."

The chief of the General Staff said: "I was not the initiator of the movement; it was the product of a general consensus."

Asked if deposed President Efrain Rios Montt tried to spread his religion, the "Word," among the military, Lopez Fuentes said: "I could not affirm that he tried to do this," and added that there is freedom of worship in the Army. However, he stressed that efforts in this direction were made outside the government and that now that Rios Montt is no longer in power, "the Catholic Church can continue carrying out its activities, with no restrictions whatsoever."

Although he did not confirm it, Lopez Fuentes hinted that the ousted government possibly used severe pressure tactics to convert peasants to Rios Montt's religion.

MLN Dismisses U.S. Involvement

PA091541 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Listeners of Radio Sandino's extra newscast: We have contacted Guatemala City and have Luis Alberto Antoniotti on the telephone. Antoniotti is a member of the Guatemalan National Liberation Movement [MLN], a rightist party. He will discuss his party's view of the coup that was staged yesterday overthrowing President General Efrain Rios Montt:

[Antoniotti] In truth, we should be very happy with these developments. However, I must stress that we cannot make any decision or express any views until we are certain about what national policy the new head of state will pursue.

[Correspondent] How did you view the nearly 16 months of Gen Rios Montt's administration?

[Antoniotti] We think that delaying tactics were sought by every available means so that they could remain in power. This is one of the reasons mentioned by the new head of government for staging the coup. We (?had wanted) the elections called as soon as possible, so that the country could return to constitutional life. All the traditional parties were holding talks with him, but we realized that his idea was to delay the electoral process.

[Correspondent] Oscar Humberto Mejia, the new head of state, has said that he will try to achieve the country's institutionalization, a democratic opening, and elections sometime in the future. How do you view that situation?

[Antoniotti] We think that this is the best thing the head of state -- for he is not a president -- (?can do). We think that his administration will be transitional, and that in a period of no more than 120 days Guatemala can and should return to a constitutional system.

[Correspondent] According to your party, what steps should be taken to achieve the country's democratization?

[Antoniotti] The elections for a constituent assembly should be convoked as soon as possible. The old Constitution should be amended, not drafted anew. Guatemala has one of the most complete electoral laws in Latin America. The method of implementing the law might give rise to misinterpretations or to incorrect applications, but the law itself, our electoral law, is among the most complete anywhere.

[Correspondent] In view of this most recent development, will the Guatemalan political parties, particularly the MLN, take any action with the new ruler to achieve a political solution and to seek the path of democratization, as well as solutions to the country's current political, economic, and social issues?

[Antoniotti] Definitely; we are trying to hold an emergency meeting this evening with all recognized political groups, so that, first, we can ask the head of state to explain his administration's ideas and guidelines to us and, second, so that we can make some suggestions to him with regard to the search for democratization. We feel that a country whose leader has not been elected by the people can never speak of democracy.

[Correspondent] What are the legal parties in Guatemala?

[Antoniotti] We are referring to the traditional parites: the MLN, the Democratic Institutional Party, the Christian Democracy, the Nationalist Authentic Central, the Nationalist United Front, and the Revolutionary Party.

[Correspondent] As for the coup, do you think the United Staes had any direct or indirect participation in overthrowing President Rios Montt?

[Antoniotti] Absolutely not. From what we saw this morning, the U.S. Government was not informed. The U.S. ambassador in Guatemala himself did not know what was going on, because he contacted us to obtain some information. We do not think the U.S. Government has to become involved in our domestic problems. We are absolutely free to decide the fate of our nation, whether in one direction or another. There was no foreign interference in this coup.

[Correspondent] Has the U.S. ambassador in Guatemala City expressed any concern over the country's situation?

[Antoniotti] Thus far he has abstained from making a statement. The embassy secretariat phoned us, but we have not concerned ourselves with learning his opinion or concerns on the subject. In truth, we do not (?see any connection) between these issues.

Committees to Assess Guidelines

PA091238 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1205 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] The members of a commission that was to sign a political pact with former ruler General Efrain Rios Montt met yesterday and decided to study General Mejia Victores' guidelines before adopting any stance on such a pact. Five committees for the creation of political parties met at the Dorado Americano Hotel. They are the Chirstian Democrats, the Revolutionary Party, the National Liberation Movement, the Nationalist Authentic Central, and the Union of the National Center.

Gordillo Discusses Future

PA092056 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Colonel Francisco Luis Gordillo Martinez is one of the men who participated in last year's 23 March movement and who was a member of the first government junta, only to be gradually relieved of all his responsibilities until he was finally removed from his post and later, after having criticized the government, discharged and tried for conspiracy.

Col Gordillo visited TELEPRENSA today to discuss, in a special interview, the reasons for the fall of General Rios Montt's regime:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified journalist] Col Gordillo, why did the government that has been deposed fail?

[Gordillo] First, because it abandoned the intial 23 March program, the objective of which was to correct past errors and to lead the country toward democracy as soon as possible. Second, because all advice went unheeded. A great deal was said to alert the government to situations, to encourage it to examine all sorts of problems, but no one listened. Indeed, such opinions and advice were often taken as an insult to the government, and not as an indication of the citizen's desire to cooperate in the search for solutions to national problems.

[Journalist] You spoke of solving the problems of the past. Is it still possible to solve our problems?

[Gordillo] That is what we hope for. I believe that this is a new opportunity for the people to be joyful and to have hope for the future. [passage indistinct] I believe that we can have a happy future.

[Journalist] What do you foresee for Guatemala at this moment, when additional taxes have been imposed, which were not received too well by the people, and when there is talk of a new agrarian reform and of other laws that are to be implemented?

[Gordillo] At the moment, the nation's various sectors should be heard, a general opinion should be sought, so that conclusions may be reached regarding the methods that should be used to deal with national problems. I believe that [words indistinct] but it is too early to make an assessment. What must be emphatically sought, however, is the well-being and ensured interests of the majority.

[Journalist] [Words indistinct] of the political parties is an acceleration of the return to democratic life through elections. What do you think about this?

[Gordillo] I think [word indistinct] methods and attitudes should be adopted. [end recording]

TANA President Remarks

PA091948 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Guillermo Toriello, president of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA, has asserted that the new Guatemalan head of state was Rios Montt's accomplice in the murder of peasants. The appointment of General Oscar Mejia Victores as the Guatemalan head of state, which was ordered by the U.S. State Department, is an effort to crush the Salvadoran revolutionary movement, to defeat the Sandinist revolution, and to interfere with the Contadora Group's efforts, Toriello told this station. Dr Toriello was foreign minister during Jacobo Arbenz' 1954 administration.

According to the TANA president, as the defense minister, Gen Mejia Victores was an accomplice of Gen Rios Montt, who was ousted in a coup because of the killings of peasants.

In conclusion, Dr Toriello said that the U.S. State Department decided to replace Rios Montt because of the failure of his counterinsurgency policy, because the guerrilla movement has grown so strong and united that it has dealt strong blows to the Army, even in the capital.

[Begin Toriello recording] Rios Montt's case is undoubtedly spectacular, even folkloric, because he was chosen by the State Department and the Pentagon as (?the ideal murderer) in the name of a fundamentalist religious sect that would pursue U.S. national security doctrine, which is drawn up by the CIA. The group would also include the other militarymen who joined this sect.

This led to grave contradictions for the Guatemalan people, for, like all Central Americans, our people are mainly Catholic. A true contradiction ensued on this issue, which even involved the Catholic hierarchy in Guatemala. But that was only one of the contradictions.

Another contradiction, involving the military leaders, had to do with the fact that the militarymen led by Rios Montt, who were already members of the sect, created a problem with the other military leaders, because, from a religious perspective, a foreign church was in control of the Guatemalan Government.

In addition, there were many contradictions involving the ruling classes -- particularly the agricultural exporters, the industrialists, and the oligarchy -- when he decided, among other things, to levy the aggregate value tax. He made this commitment to the IMF in exchange for a loan. According to the ruling classes, this was harmful to their interests.

Rios Montt also created contradictions with Guatemala's traditional and fascist parties, such as the so-called National Liberation Movement, the Democratic Institutional Party, the genocidal former President Arana's CAN [Nationalist Authentic Central], etc., because he completely displaced them and denied them every right to participation.

In addition, he [word indistinct] the Constitution, he did away with all of the laws, and he (?created) a political statute, not to mention the special courts, which began legalizing the murder of patriots on the basis of the idea that they were subversives. All this [words indistinct] at a given point led to national and international rejection of Rios Montt.

But one of the primary determining factor was his failure to check the Guatemalan counter-insurgency movement. Fortunately, and despite the fact that he said 1982 was to be the year of victory over the guerrilla forces, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity not only proved him wrong, but further consolidated its unity. At this point, they are even dealing blows in the capital to the elite Kaibiles force, which formerly proctected Rios Montt. [end recording]

MEDIA EXPRESS VIEWS CONCERNING COUP, AFTERMATH

Roundup of Press Reaction

PA091717 Paris AFP in Spanish 1612 GMT 9 Aug 83

[By Isabel Ovares]

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 9 Aug (AFP) -- A climate of insecurity prevails today among the Guatemalan people, who are closely following the possible outcome of the coup staged yesterday that installed General Oscar Mejia as head of state.

Several armored vehicles can be seen throughout the capital city's principal military zones [dependencias], but troop movement at the presidential house are normal. Fewer vehicles than usual are moving on the streets.

Meanwhile, the shops and public offices are operating normally, except for certain schools that suspended classes today.

It can be recalled that 16 months ago, when General Efrain Rios Montt overthrew then President General Fernando Romeo Lucas, the citizens participated more actively and identified more readily with the "young officer" movement that was assuming power.

On their editorial pages, Guatemala's principal newspapers today endorse the military coup that ousted Gen Rios Montt yesterday, leaving an unofficial aftermath of 8 dead and 20 injured.

According to EL GRAFICO, the coup "must be seen as a renewed effort to achieve a democratic opening and to consolidate the process of returning to constitutionality" in Guatemala.

For its part, the newspaper PRENSA LIBRE asserts that "the decision to remove General Rios Montt shows that the Guatemalan Army grasped the scope of the mistakes made" by the former president. This "suggests that those mistakes will not be repeated, so there will not be any justification for altering the process of returning to constitutionality."

The commentator both stresses and praises several of the commitments made yesterday by the new head of state, such as the elimination of the special military courts, the lifting of the state of alarm, and the elimination of the title of president for those rulers who are not elected by the people.

PRENSA LIBRE warns Mejia to be particularly careful not to make decisions "that might be viewed as evidence of his intention to remain in power."

EL GRAFICO Editorial

PA100250 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 9 Aug 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Rios Montt's Decline"]

[Text] The coup d'etat that ousted General Efrain Rios Montt as president and replaced him with General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores -- until yesterday the defense minister -- should be interpreted as a renewed effort toward a democratic opening and consolidation of the process of returning to constitutionality.

We must give Rios Montt's 18-month government credit for its intention to end corruption and the vices of the past, and for having promoted the promulgation of the three political laws that serve as a basis for the process of a return to legality. Morevoer, we must censure it for causing Guatemala's image abroad to deteriorate through the executions ordered by the special courts, which left doubt with regard to the justice of this procedure and have been rejected, especially in legal circles. Similarly, we must censure him for not having known how to get along with different sectors in the country, and also for having placed representatives of the Protestant Church of the Word in key government positions and promoting a dangerous situation between Protestants and Catholics. This situation was aggravated, when, on the eve of Pope John Paul II's arrival, the government ignored the pope's pleas for five men sentenced to death by the special courts, and had them executed a fews hours before the pope arrived in Guatemala. This not only caused bad feelings internally, but also tarnished Guatemala's image abroad.

We have to consider General Mejia Victores' speech yesterday afternoon, when he was sworn in as head of state. The new leader expressed his determination to return all of us, together, to the path of peace, concord, and democracy; to consolidate the political reorganization initiated on 23 March 1982; to eliminate any possibility of religious or political action against the spiritual or moral feelings of the majority; to avoid interference of any kind with the work of juridical organizations in the dispensing of justice; to unconditionally respect and support the supreme electoral tribunal; to guarantee the right to defense of all citizens; and to respect the autonomy of the university of San Carlos and other universities of the country. General Mejia Victores also expressed his commitment to respect the calendar for the electoral process and to respect freedom of expression, and he recognized the informative and guiding work of the news media. The decisions thus expressed guarantee the unalterability of this process of returning to constitutional life — that is, to the democratization which had already begun. There is tranquility among the people, who have been economically harmed by the effects of the new tax package, which may be amended, according to a statement yesterday by the new leader. He also said that the state of alert will be lifted some time today, and placed himself, ideologically, on the side of the Western countries and of Catholicism. We Guatemalans are confident that the assurances given, and the democratization process, will continue unalterably to, at the scheduled time, put power in the hands of whoever is elected by the citizen's will, freely expressed at the polls. General Mejia Victores' words commit the new military government to the search for authentic democracy, in pursuit of which Guatemala channels its future.

Radio Commentary

PA091324 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1115 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Station commentary: "Our Question for Today Is: What Are Our Expectations as of Yesterday?"]

[Text] Although General Oscar Mejia Victores, the new head of state, has raised some important questions, particularly concerning the constitutional process, the tax reforms,

and other basic aspects of the nation's life, many Guatemalans are now waiting, with renewed anticipation, for important changes that will contribute to the restoration of tranquility and popular confidence.

There is no doubt that since yesterday, the attention of all Guatemalans has been focused on what Gen Mejia Victores' government will do, particularly with regard to the controversial tax on aggragate value, IVA. As we said yesterday, the people expect the tax structures to be modified, because it is not possible for us to continue to use obsolete systems and methods. It is necessary for the state to improve fiscal procedures both qualitatively and quantitatively to benefit the nation.

What the people will not accept is the imposition of excessive taxes, particularly given the present difficult economic circumstances that are affecting all of us. Obviously, these measures have created considerable unrest and dissatisfaction, heightened by the fact that they were imposed regardless of cost, in total disregard of the feelings and general opinion of a large sector of the population. Fortunately, in his first message to the nation, the new head of state referred to this point.

It is very important now that the nation maintain its tranquility and stability and that it continue the irreversible process of returning to a state of law. It is necessary to note the mistakes made by other nations that, sooner or later, have found themselves involved in complicated situations that they are finding difficult to overcome.

It is proper that wise men make rectification, as a popular saying goes. Let us hope that such is the case in Guatemala at present. Let us also hope, however, that such rectifications are not made so often that they prompt the people to lose faith. Time and future actions will, no doubt, indicate where we are headed and what awaits us in the near future.

May God continue to protect and shed His light on our beautiful and long-suffering country.

FAR REBELS TAKE GOVERNMENT POST ON USUMACINTA

PA100240 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2259 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] San Jose, 9 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- While a change of command took place in Guatemala City and General Oscar H. Mejia Victores replaced General Rios Montt, rebel operations continued in the north.

Today, the Guatemalan Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) reported in San Jose that units from the "Captain Androcles Hernandez" northern regional front took the Aforo ranch on the Usumacinta River in El Peten Department.

In a communique disseminated here, the rebel organization, which is part of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), announced that its forces occupied the government post, held a meeting with the workers, and "seized radio equipment, machinery, a motor launch and other materials."

The FAR indicated that the action was called "Victor Hugo Morales," after a guerrilla who was killed in El Peten recently.

The "Capitan Androcles Hernandez" northern regional front is one of four that comprise the FAR, and it carries out activities in El Peten Department, according to the communique.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA COMMENTS ON GUATEMALA, ARMS SUPPLIES

PA100210 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government junta, has said in Managua that he knows nothing as yet about the initiatives that will be put forth by General Mejia Victores. Regarding this, he pointed out that there is a U.S. plot to involve Guatemala in an attack on the Sandinist revolution. Daniel Ortega noted that the military mutiny in Guatemala might be related to the deployment of U.S. ships off Nicaragua and that it underlines the imperialist strategy in the region. Ortega reaffirmed his country's right to obtain the weapons necessary to build up its defenses. He pointed out in a statement to the press in Managua that Nicaragua is currently the most attacked country in Latin America, and that this fact is the basis of its undeniable right to purchase weapons from those countries that wish to sell them. He said: We are talking about defensive weapons, because we are not thinking about attacking anyone, only of defending ourselves. Ortega pointed out that the Nicaraguan Government is not obligated to disclose which countries supply its weapons. Finally, he expressed support for the Salvadoran revolutionaries and said that Nicaragua maintains a policy of solidarity with and respect toward them.

ORTEGA ON FRENCH POSITION IN CENTRAL AMERICA

PA092115 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] The visit which the French minister of external relations, Claude Cheysson, paid to Latin America, and particularly his stops in Colombia and Cuba, clearly show the interest and concern of that country with current regional problems. This was the answer provided by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, in reply to a question this afternoon from a reporter on whether the latest talks between the French foreign minister and Cuban Government representatives were considered positive for Central America. The following is Ortega's recorded statement:

[Begin recording] Yes, France is definitely interested in the Central American problem. The position of France and Mexico concerning the conflict affecting El Salvador and Nicaragua is well-known and constitutes a sober and mature attitude on the part of the French Government. Therefore, the recent French contacts with Colombia, Cuba, and other countries, including the meeting with the Nicaraguan foreign minister during his brief stop in Panama, confirm that country's concern and interest with the problems of the area. [end recording]

Daniel Ortega noted that Nicaragua maintains a policy of solidarity and respect for the Salvadoran revolution; therefore, we are certain that Cuba maintains a similar attitude. In reply to questions by foreign reporters on whether Nicaragua was backing the Salvadoran guerrillas, Ortega emphasized that the Salvadorans must decide their future alone, without assistance from anybody.

COUNCIL OF STATE MEETING SLATED FOR 10 AUGUST

FL091240 Santo Domingo Radio Earth in English 0200 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Managua, Nicaragua -- The Nicaraguan Council of State has today been called for a meeting on Wednesday [10 Aug] in which, according to the official Sandinist government's newspaper, BARRICADA, matters of utmost importance for the country will be dealt with.

Outside the announcement of the incorporation of 200,000 new Nicaraguans to the Armed Forces, on the grounds of the recently passed law of obligatory military service, the newspaper stressed that the matter to be made public has so much importance that the meeting has been scheduled for a day which traditionally is a holiday in Nicaragua and which usually paralyzes all the activities of its capital city Managua. No details were given on the matter which will be dealt with.

Last night, the coordinator of the Sandinist junta, Commander Daniel Ortega, severely criticized the United States by calling the U. S. cooperation to Honduras as a cooperation for death and on the other hand criticized British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for having been the only one to support the naval maneuvers of Washington in front of the Nicaraguan coast.

Ortega spoke to an audience of some 300 young men who returned last night from Cuba, where they graduated as technicians.

SIX FDN MEMBERS RECEIVE PRISON TERMS

PA092120 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Aug 83 p 7

[Text] Six counterrevolutionaries from a cell of the so-called FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] have been sentenced, some to 3 and others to 5 years in prison, by Guillermo Betanco, judge of the 4th District Court in Managua.

Reynaldo Vega Lacayo was the assistant district attorney who provided all the proof needed to prosecute and convict Wilfredo Andres Diaz Campos, Roger Enrique Morales Lopez, and Cesar Augusto Sanchez, who were each sentenced to 5 years in prison for violating the law on public order and security.

Agustin Diaz Lopez, Alfonso Antonio Rosales Garcia, and Roberto Antonio Aburto Palacios were each sentenced to 3 years in prison for the same crime.

According to the case history, these men were all members of a cell of the counterrevolutionary FDN movement, which operated in the El Crucero sector in Managua Department and held conspiratorial meetings against the revolutionary government.

During the trial, proof was presented of their criminal plans, which included sabotaging work centers, obtaining arms, distributing leaflets, making armed assaults, and assassinating revolutionary leaders.

FSDC CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO HOLD ELECTIONS

PA080225 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 3 Aug 83 p 13-A

[Paid advertisement entitled: "Public Summons From the Christian Democratic Solidarity Front to the FSLN's Marxist Government: 'Elections? What For?';" issued in "Central America" on 28 July 1983]

[Excerpts] "Elections? What for?" The phrase belongs to Fidel Castro... the concept is at the very root of Marxism-Leninism. Totalitarian ideologies reject popular participation in the election of leaders under conditions in which the citizen is free to decide.

They replace this with a situation of forced decisions (through their totalitarian control of individuals and the media), of a single party (the communist party), and of a single slate (that of the party). The vote ceases to be a vote because it ceases to be universal, free, and secret. It becomes the obligatory legitimization of a totalitarian situation.

In view of this, the Christian Democratic Solidarity Front [Frente Solidaridad-Democrata Cristiano], the FSDC, formed by Nicaraguan Christian Democrats in exile, publicly calls on the FSLN and demands that it immediately comply with the promises made at the OAS to hold free elections, and, to this end, that it lift the restrictions on the press, free all anti-Somozist political prisoners, dissolve the "divine mobs," and separate the Army from the FSLN.

The FSDC feels that the FSLN would thus contribute to peace in Central America, eliminate the excuse for confrontation between the hegemonic powers, and give the original Nicaraguan revolution its democratic, pluralistic, and popular content.

Signed by the FSDC Directorate:

Anibal Ibarra, organizational coordinator

Francisco Delgadillo, deputy organizational coordinator

Jose Davila, political coordinator

Roberto Perez, deputy political coordinator

Brenda Mayorga Ramos, sectorial relations coordinator

Rafael Ramos, propaganda and international relations coordinator

Luisa Arguello, finance and assistance coordinator

FDN ORGANIZES REGIONAL DIRECTORATE IN COSTA RICA

PA072235 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 3 Aug 83 p 27A

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] The Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, reports

To Nicaraguans in Costa Rica

To the fraternal Costa Rican people and their most excellent government.

To the governments that comprise the Contadora Group

To the democratic peoples and governments of the world.

1. In compliance with the plans for the growth and expansion of our organization and of our struggle for political liberation being waged against the terrorist tyranny that Cuba and the USSR, acting through the so-called commanders, seek to impose on Nicaragua, the FDN has organized its Regional Directorate in Costa Rica, which will act in absolute observance of the law.

God, Fatherland, Democracy

Ernesto Jose Centeno Pastora

P [passport] No 138445

VOICE OF SANDINO REPORTS MILITARY ACTIONS

Clashes in Rio San Juan

PA051723 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 5 Aug 83

Miskito, Sumu, Rama Sandinist Unity, MISURASATA; Nicaraguan Democratic Movement; and Sandino Revolutionary Front War Bulletin No 47; dated 4 August 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, General Command informs the Nicaraguan people and free peoples of the world that:

1. On 30 July at 1200, the Porfirio Melendez squad of the Ramon Raudales column clashed with a contingent of the Interior Ministry's special forces in the place known as La Escalera, Castillo jurisdiction, Rio San Juan Department. The fighting lasted 6 hours with the following results: The enemy suffered eight dead and five wounded, while we must regret the heroic death of three companeros and the wounding of one in defense of our fatherland's sovereignty.

The action was politically and militarily successful, despite the loss of valuable lives. The morale of our fighters is very high, and they posses a fighting spirit that makes them ready at all times to continue on the difficult road to rescue our freedom and democracy.

2. In the early morning of 16 July at Cerro Serrano, Rio San Juan Department, elements of the Reinaldo Diaz Giron column clashed with an enemy contingent composed of special forces belonging to the Interior Ministry of the totalitarian Managua government. In an exchange of gunfire which lasted 2 hours, our fighters inflicted 27 casualties on the enemy, while our forces remained intact. On this occasion, we recovered a large amount of weapons and ammunition. Although the Sandinist Peoples Army has been reinforced by the Interior Ministry's special troops in an attempt to stop our liberation struggle, the heroism, audacity, and courage of our fighters prevailed as they shouted: Long live ARDE! Long live free Nicaragua! Death to foreign intervention! Without totalitarianism or a return to the past! Free fatherland or death!

Mountains of Nicaragua, 4 August 1983. ARDE Armed Forces General Command.

July Operations Described

PA080125 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 6 Aug 83

[Miskito, Sumu, Rama, Sandinist Unity, Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, and Sandino Revolutionary Front War Bulletin No 49; dated 5 August 1983]

[Text] The General Command of the Armed Forces of ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] informs the Nicaraguan people and free peoples of the world:

1. That after 3 months of armed actions initiated by ARDE columns, we have achieved highly positive political and military gains in the extensive portion of the national territory in which the fighters of our Southern, Internal, and Atlantic Fronts operate.

2. That during the past month of July some of the most intensive war confrontations with the enemy took place. As a result, we inflicted 547 casualties on the enemy, which is approximately half of the total -- 1,130, including 13 foreign mercenaries -- who have been victims of our 3-month armed struggle. The same applies to the number of operations that we staged. Of the 72 operations carried out during these 3 months, 31 were carried out in July. Regarding prisoners captured from the enemy, July was a fruitful month, since 42 out of a total of 46 prisoners captured during the 3-month period were taken. All of them except one were turned over to the Red Cross in our fraternal country to the south, Costa Rica, where that institution is truly nonpartisan and apolitical and where it operates in a climate of public liberty. The prisoner who was not turned over was identified as a mercenary of Cuban nationality, an active member of the Interior Ministry's special forces that are being used to reinforce the demoralized troops of the ill-termed Sandinist People's Army and the reserve militias.

3. We also suffered fewer casualties among our forces during the past month of July: 16 of the 59 that we have suffered in the past 3 months. Regarding the number of weapons seized, July was the best month: 42 AK-47 and M-16 rifles were taken, while in June, only 14 rifles and 2 pistols were seized. (Still fewer) weapons were captured in May. In addition, we recovered 1 partially damaged flatboat, 2 40-horsepower launches, 2 RPG-7 rocket launchers, 30 [words indistinct], ammunition and magazines, knapsacks, and uniforms that can be added to a smaller amount of materiel seized during May and June.

4. We have had to rescue hundreds of noncombatants and help them flee the border area due to the indiscriminate bombing carried out by the enemy's criminal air force and the establishment of concentration camps in small border towns, to the detriment of women, children, and the elderly. Those people were mistreated and confined on suspicion of collaborating with relatives who have joined either the peasant insurrection groups against the totalitarian Managua government or ARDE's armed forces. We rescued 325 people in July.

5. The points in the national territory entered by ARDE forces during these months include (La Efusona), San Juanillo, (Sarapiqui), Nueva Guinea, Rio Maiz, Punta Gorda, Aloja, (Raudales Estero), and La Fonseca. Also Isla del Diamante, Nueva Esperanza, La Escalera de Santa Cruz, El Coral, Llano Grande, Cardenas, San Jorge, Rivas, Tibalsa, [word indistinct], Rio Grande, Mejico, Colon, Isla Sombrero, Rio Indo, Papaturro, San Juan del Norte, Managua, (Punta de Savalo), La Perla, Macantaka, Puerto Isabel (Puerto Stanley), San Miguelito, Tigua, Cara, [words indistinct], etc.

6. In August, the morale of our squads is high. Our northern front is being formed, and we are advancing from the south and the Atlantic toward the central part of the country and along the Pacific coast. We are prepared to continue with patriotism, [word indistinct], and heroism to rescue the betrayed revolution, taking our place in history as the army for the defense of the nation's sovereignty. First of all, we have the support and backing of the Nicaraguan masses and the solidarity of democratic peoples and organizations from America and the world. Without totalitarianism or a return to the past! Free fatherland or death!

[Dated] Mountains of Nicaragua, 5 August 1983

[Signed] ARDE General Command

COMMENTARIES DISCUSS COUP IN GUATEMALA

Seen as U.S. 'Inspired'

FL091409 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1140 GMT 9 Aug 83

[International commentary by Javier Rodriguez from PRENSA LATINA -- live]

[Excerpts] In a military movement that lasted just 45 minutes, the Guatemalan Armed Forces yesterday overthrew General Efrain Rios Montt. Approximately 7 persons were killed and an undetermined number were wounded in the brief fighting that occurred at the start of the military rebellion. Several earlier military plots had been uncovered by the government of Rios Montt, who has been publicly accused of the death of thousands of Guatemalan citizens, principally indians and peasants.

The military proclamation made public shortly after Rios Montt's overthrow said that the Armed Forces were opposed to the group that was holding power and planned to perpetuate itself in power.

The special courts that became famous during Rios Montt's administration and determined the firing squad execution of more than 15 persons will be eliminated, according to the military proclamation. At the same time, preparations will continue for the election of a constituent assembly in July 1984, although this has been harshly criticized and labeled as a farce.

According to the military proclamation, repression will continue in Guatemala because one of the basic points of the military proclamation is the continuation of the struggle against the popular movement that is openly developing in the country and threatening the equilibrium of the authoritarian government that has exercised power for so long.

According to the majority of political observers and the press, what is happening in Guatemala right now was directly inspired by the U.S. Government. Efrain Rios Montt was completely discredited, internationally isolated, and opposed by many domestic sectors, including reactionary sectors. Domestic reactionaries opposed some of the government's proposals and actions, including the enactment of a series of taxes and other economic measures suggested by the IMF or imposed by the IMF as a condition to grant credits to the country, which was and is experiencing a difficult economic situation.

In addition, Rios Montt had not been able to eliminate popular resistance, especially in the rural areas of the country, during his 500 days in government, although large numbers of indians and peasants were killed. Repression reached incalculable levels in the cities as well. Consequently, many public charges were lodged against the government, and international organizations carried out investigations and made charges that increased the international isolation that characterized the government overthrown yesterday afternoon by a group of Guatemalan soldiers.

Perhaps what is being pursued -- in promoting this coup d'etat -- and this appears to be a constant in Washington's policy toward Guatemala is to facilitate open U.S. support for the Guatemalan Government. This has often been limited, at least publicly although it has in fact continued, due to the enormous unpopularity of the government and the constant public charges made against its repression and the cruelty of this repression.

General Oscar Mejia has assumed power in Guatemala. He was defense minister up to the moment of Rios Montt's overthrow. Mejia, trained in the School of the Americas that the United States operates in Panama, a furious anticommunist and very reactionary, is the man chosen to replace Rios Montt. Some news agencies reported that Mejia is even more conservative than Rios Montt and represents even more reactionary sectors of the Armed Forces. Unquestionably, one cannot even imagine -- according to the news dispatches and Mejia's biography -- any positive change in Guatemala's domestic or foreign policy. The coup is simply a replacement of the top military leadership, sponsored by the United States to remove a discredited individual like Rios Montt and an effort to use sensational initial measures, such as the elimination of the special courts and the announcement to find ways to democratize the country, to brighten the image of a regime that no one considers positive or capable of solving the Guatemalan people's problems.

General Mejia visited Honduras just 48 hours prior to the coup d'etat that overthrew Rios Montt. In Honduras he met with Paul Gorman, chief of the U.S. Army's Southern Command, according to news agencies and the Honduran press, which published photographs of the meeting. The Honduran press said that the meeting was held on a U.S. aircraft carrier that is now participating in the aggressive maneuvers in Central America.

The U.S. Southern Command is based in the Panama Canal Zone and plays an important role in the aggressive strategy of the United States in the Caribbean and Central America. According to the Honduran press, the meeting was also attended by General Gustavo Alvarez, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces and the real strongman of Honduras, and General Eugenio Vides Casanova, the Salvadoran defense minister. Therefore, it is not farfetched to say that this coup d'etat is a coordination of all these factors by the United States to continue its aggressive policy in Central America and the Caribbean.

Only 'A Change of Men'

FL091807 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] The murderer Efrain Rios Montt has just left power the same way he came, through a coup d'etat. He has been succeeded by General Oscar Humberto Mejia who, as defense minister, shared his policy of looting and murder for 16 months. Mejia accused Rios Montt of using and abusing power during his bloody term in office and called for greater union in the Army and the nation.

The new owner of the Guatemalan regime speaks of democratization while expressing his most passionate determination to use every means at his disposal to fight against the country's revolutionary movement.

When Rios Montt took power, he also spoke about national unity, democracy, and cohesion in the Army. He promised to achieve peace, to eliminate poverty in Guatemala, and to construct hospitals, schools, and highways. In fact, he discredited the country further, bankrupted the economy, wiped out complete villages, and left more than 10,000 dead.

Now, General Oscar Humberto Mejia takes the stage in Guatemala. He is a pro-U.S. soldier educated in the course of coupist plots and the most absolute subservience to the imperialist transnationals. This man also speaks of democracy and unity. Is it possible to achieve them by trampling on the thousands of bodies, hundreds of thousands of unemployed and underemployed, and the tens of thousands of illiterates and hungry people who do not have the slightest hope of easing their suffering?

Nothing but promises. Guatemala is a neighboring country south of Mexico; 108,889 square km; 7 million inhabitants, of which 50 percent are indians; 20 percent of the economically active population is unemployed and 52 percent is underemployed; 2 percent of the population owns 72 percent of the land. As long as this situation exists, there can be no peace, democracy, or national unity. To achieve all this it is necessary to change the social, economic, and political structures, which Rios Montt was not prepared to do, nor was his predecessor, Lucas Garcia. Much less will General Mejia do so.

Therefore, in analyzing this recent coup d'etat one can only call it a change of men, a change in the way to continue exploiting and repressing the people. The new rightist military government that took power in Guatemala this Monday could represent a turnabout in the Central American political situation because General Mejia promotes even closer rapprochment with the United States, which could convert this country into another Honduras at the service of the CIA and against the national liberation movements in the region.

To End Religious Abuses

PA100310 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 9 Aug 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] To Guatemalan dictator Efrain Rios Montt, the popular saying "as you sow, so shall you reap" became a startling reality on Monday morning. In fact, 17 months after seizing power through a coup d'etat, Rios Montt was ousted in another military coup.

The commanders of Guatemalan military bases, who gathered in a council, agreed to overthrow Rios Montt, accused him of trying to remain in power indefinitely, and appointed Defense Minister General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores as his replacement.

The coup only gave rise to a brief clash which, according to the news agencies, resulted in 5 people dead and 22 wounded, most of them palace guards.

Shortly after reading a proclamation announcing the coup, Gen Mejia Victores installed himself at the Government Palace and assumed the duties of president, defense minister, and Army commander.

The military commander's council issued an eight-point statement announcing its decision to restore the normal operation of democratic institutions and asserting that it had gone into action to safeguard national unity. The Guatemalan officers justified their actions by what they described as their duty to replace leaders who, out of personal ambition, wanted to remain in power forever. Therefore, they staged this coup in view of the need to put an end to the activities of a fanatic and aggressive religious group which, taking advantage of the power held by some of its prominent members, used and abused its position for its own benefit. The Guatemalan coupists also expressed a desire to eradicate guerrilla forces in the country. This is a goal that was fruitlessly sought by the deposed regime.

Over the past few months, Gen Rios Montt had been warned about his exclusive control of power and the increasingly important role that the so-called Church of The Word played in Guatemala's political life. Rios Montt was this church's most famous preacher.

Rios Montt -- who seized power on 23 March 1982 through a coup staged by young officers who called themselves nationalists -- had imposed alleged religious reform on the government. The slogan for this reform was: I will not steal, lie, or commit abuses.

A dedicated Protestant, Brother Efrain, who proclaimed himself president-preacher, addressed the nation every 15 [as heard] days through a sermon-message carried over a radio and television network. However, in practice, his policy became an unprecedented increase in repression. He decreed the so-called public overlaw, the state of siege, and the creation of special courts, and implemented capital punishment and press censorship. Seven months after the coup which placed Rios Montt in power, Amnesty International denounced an increase in the violation of human rights in Guatemala, including massacres, murders, kidnappings, and persecutions. With the implementation of the death penalty, Rios Montt earned himself strong opposition from certain Catholic Church sectors, and his international isolation increased.

In late June he decreed a state of national emergency in an effort to face the widespread discontent caused by his actions. Political parties, businessmen, unions, the church, and even large Army sectors had increased their criticism.

Colonel Francisco Gordillo, one of Rios Montt's main collaborators in the coup that ousted General Romeo Lucas Garcia in 1982, had recently demanded the dictator's resignation and announced that he had decided to go underground.

Political observers are well aware of the fact that Monday's coup in Guatemala occurred a day after a meeting in Tegucigalpa of Mejia Victores, Salvadoran Defense Minister General Eugenio Vides Casanova, Honduran Army Commander General Gustavo Alvarez, and U.S. Southern Command chief General Paul Gorman, whose headquarters is located in the Panama Canal area.

This meeting of generals, sources recalled, could have determined the change that took place in Guatemala 24 hours later in view of Rios Montt's evident failure to stop guerrilla activities, his increasing discredit, and the internal and external rejection which his government had prompted. But everything seems to indicate, it has been noted, that in practice this coup is merely the same dog with a different collar.

SALVADORAN REBELS SALUTE MONCADA ANNIVERSARY

FL091845 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Thirty years after the Moncada campaign, Cuba continues to use work, heroism, and imagination as weapons that are particularly valuable as part of its process.

This is how the weekly GUAZAPA INTERNACIONAL welcomes another anniversary of the attack against the Moncada Barracks by Fidel Castro and the youths of the centennial generation. GUAZAPA INTERNACIONAL is published by the Salvadoran revolutionary organizations.

The people of Farabundo Marti, aware that only the victory of all of Latin America over the imperialist aggressor will guarantee peace, raise their victorious weapons to welcome Cuba, Fidel, and those who with their daily work make the future of the revolution possible, said GUAZAPA INTERNACIONAL.

PRESIDENT BLANCO SACKS INTERIOR MINISTER

FL100014 Bridgetown CANA in English 2355 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Aug 9, CANA-REUTER -- Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco today sacked his interior minister after he accused an opposition party of financing anti-government strikes.

Minister Rafael Ledesma Perez was replaced immediately by General Oscar Padilla Medrano, former national security chief, a government statement said.

Ledesma Perez had accused Reform Party leader Joaquin Balaguer, a former Dominican president, of organising and financing strikes against the government.

Balaguer denied the charge and a government official today said there was no evidence of truth in it.

Meanwhile, Dominican officials were preparing for a visit by Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena. Chavez Mena left his country today for the Caribbean island, where he will meet Jorge Blanco and Foreign Minister Jose Augusto Vega Imbert for talks about the Central American situation.

CUBAN SOCIOLOGISTS TO BE EXPELLED FOR SUBVERSION

FL091310 Santo Domingo Radio Earth in English 0200 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic -- Two Cuban lady sociologists will be deported from the Dominican Republic on Friday morning, accused of having concurred in subversive activities, after having been arressed on 5 August and investigated by the local police.

The two Cuban sociologists were taking part in a seminar which studied investigation methods and techniques on the rural female inhabitant, which is scheduled to close on 27 August.

Rosario Grove and Luz Maria Hernandez will be put on board the Iberia flight scheduled for 6:00 am morning departure to Spain, en route to Cuba, since there is no direct contact between both countries.

This is the first time since the Social Democrat Party, PRD, won the national elections in 1978 that an incident of this sort is produced in the Dominican Republic, and the first political deportation from this country in a long time.

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED -- Agents of the National Police Department have seized 2 and 3/4 pounds of pure cocaine, valued at $500,000 pesos in an Ensanche La Paz residence in Santo Domingo. According to an unconfirmed report, the cocaine belonged to Mr Marino de Jesus Perez Guzman, a known international drug trafficker. [Summary]
[Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 0450 GMT 4 Aug 83 FL]

DOMINICA

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BEING DISCUSSED WITH CUBA

FL092325 Bridgetown CANA in English 2226 GMT 9 Aug 83

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Aug 9, CANA -- Cuba and Dominica have been discussing the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations, a senior Havana diplomat said here today.

"We agreed in principle to study in the near future the possibility of establishing diplomatic links to sign a scientific and cultural agreement, and to sign a trade agreement,' Cuban Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados Ivan Cesar Martinez said here today.

Martinez, who was on a one-day official visit here, said he did not think relations between Dominica and Cuba had become sour, although there had been some misunderstandings.

"We have had some contradictions, misunderstandings, and once we eliminate this, no problem at all can rise between our two countries," said the Port-of-Spain based ambassador.

Foreign affairs officials here say the misunderstandings referred to by the Cuban official stem from Havana's presentation of Cuban scholarships to Dominican students through a left-leaning political party here, the Dominican Liberation Movement (DLM), rather than through the official channel -- the government.

Prime Minister Eugenia Charles has openly criticised Cuba for offering Dominican students scholarships in order to brainwash them with Marxism and Leninism as well teach military arts.

Martinez said the Cuban scholarship issue had been discussed with Miss Charles today, adding "we agreed to send all such scholarships through the government, but the curriculum is the same."

Martinez said that Cuba will respect the Dominica Government's wish that its students do not study Marxism-Leninism, but pointed out that once any Dominican student accepts the scholarships and arrives in Cuba, "he will study all the subjects."

The DLM has, however, vowed that it will continue to send Dominican students to Cuba on scholarships despite objections from the government.

Martinez said Cuban scholarship offers made officially to the government here had not been taken up by the Eugenia Charles administration.

JAMAICA

HAITIANS BOUND FOR MIAMI SEEK REFUGEE STATUS

FL091834 Bridgetown CANA in English 1653 GMT 9 Aug 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 9, CANA -- Seventeen Haitians, attempting to escape poverty at home, are seeking Jamaica Government permission to stay here, having missed their original destination -- Miami.

The Haitians arrived in the north-eastern coastal town of Port Antonio on Friday in a small fishing boat after having been at sea for 13 days. They are being put up at a creche in the town.

They said they left Haiti for Miami to seek work, but ended up here.

In the past, Jamaica has returned Haitians on the grounds that they do not qualify as political refugees. The last group returned was 16 who came here in June 1981.

In addition to the Haitians, Jamaica still has five Nicaraguans and nearly a score of Cubans seeking refugee status here.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

RESULTS OF MUNICIPAL, COUNTRY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

FL091457 Bridgetwon CANA in English 1658 GMT 9 Aug 83

[By Rudi Williams]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 9, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago's opposition parties, mauled in local government elections three years ago, made significant gains in yesterday's vote to fill 120 municipal and country council seats, according to provisional results released today. Opposition parties picked up 46 seats to Prime Minister George Chambers' Peoples National Movements's (PNM) 37 of the first 83 for which provisional results were released by the Elections and Boundaries Commission. The Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR), headed by former Trinidad and Tobago Attorney General Karl Hudson Phillips, captured 20 seats, with 26 going to a three-party alliance headed by parliamentary opposition leader Basdeo Panday. The alliance and the ONR made a deal not to offer competing candidates for the same seats, with the more popular candidate from each side facing the electorate.

According to the provisional results, the PNM is still in control of the country's four muncipalities, with the ONR and the alliance controlling four of the seven country councils. In the 1980 local government election, Chambers' party won 101 of the then 113 seats at stake.

Politicians here view yesterday's poll as a mid-term test of the popularity of the PNM, which won 20 of the 36 seats to the House of Representatives in the 1981 general election. Figures were still to come in for three country councils, but political observers here predicted that the alliance and the ONR would also put up a good showing here.

The election results have given a flip to the ONR which gained high media projection in the last general elections but was battered by the PNM. It did not win a seat although it collected 22 percent of the votes cast. The party's success so far has been mainly in the muncipalities. It has won four of the 12 seats in the Port of Spain City Council, which had been controlled by the PNM. The leftist National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) performed dismally, collecting a small number of votes and to date no seats.